

Tomorrow's Weather

HIGH 53
LOW 41

See expanded weather on Page 2

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Charitable giving begins for this holiday season

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

There are several ways to spread Christmas cheer this year to those who have limited means of providing their own holiday celebration.

Gifts for recipients of Tralee Crisis Center's Tree of Blessings are due by Dec. 15. Recipients are victims of domestic violence or sexual assault and their families.

Ornaments on the tree contain information on needed articles of clothing and the correct sizes for each, as well as special toy requests for children. Twenty-five families are represented on this year's tree.

Persons wishing to help the victims and their families may choose one or more ornaments and return them along with the gift or gifts to the crisis center office at 310 S. Cuyler. Gifts should be unwrapped.

The center asks that ornaments be returned, whether or not the gift is provided.

Monetary donations are also being accepted at the center. Donations will be used to help provide items requested on the ornaments.

The Salvation Army's Angel Tree gifts are due by Dec. 17. Paper angel ornaments on Christmas trees at local businesses may be selected,

and the suggested gifts written on them returned along with the angel ornament to the tree where the ornament was chosen.

Each angel ornament represents a needy child or elderly person and includes the person's gender and age group, along with gift suggestions.

Gifts should be unwrapped. In addition to the tree where the ornament was selected, gifts may also be left at the Salvation Army office, 701 S. Cuyler. If gifts are left at the office, the donor is asked to call ahead to make sure someone is at the office. No gifts should be left at the office if no one is there. The office number is 665-7233.

Angel Trees are located at United Supermarket, Wal-Mart, Beall's, Bank of America, National Bank of Commerce, FirstBank Southwest, Titan Specialties and Panhandle Regional Medical Center.

Those wishing to help with the Angel Tree project may also adopt an entire family for the holiday, said Capt. Laura Martin. Anyone wishing to do so may call the Salvation Army office.

Salvation Army bell ringers will be manning the red kettles at Wal-

See CHARITY, Page 3



Pampa News photo by MARILYN POWERS
Receptionist Cinthia Salazar, left, and Volunteer Coordinator Melissa Wallin of Tralee Crisis Center read the information on some of the ornaments at the center's Tree of Blessings. Persons wishing to help victims of domestic violence or sexual assault and their families may select ornaments from the tree, buy the items requested, and return them to the center by Dec. 15.

County to consider reinvestment zone for Pickens

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

Gray County commissioners will once again consider establishing a reinvestment zone for a wind farm proposed by T. Boone Pickens when they meet at 9 a.m. Friday in the second-floor courtroom of the courthouse, 205 N. Russell.

A public hearing concerning the

proposed reinvestment zone was held at commissioners' last meeting, Nov. 15. A local resident spoke against the zone, while a representative of Pickens' Mesa Power company spoke in favor of it.

Action on whether to create the proposed reinvestment zone was tabled because two of the four com-

missioners own land within the proposed area, and County Judge Richard Peet was absent from the meeting, leaving four to vote on the issue.

Pickens, a Roberts County rancher and Dallas businessman, has planned a wind farm which will include portions of four counties, including the

northern third of Gray County. He also plans to build a transmission line to convey the power generated by the wind farm to customers downstate. A water line to convey groundwater may run beside the power line for the same purpose.

See COUNTY, Page 3

Reindeer Run begins tonight

BY KERRI SMITH
Staff Writer

The Downtown Business Association will kick off their Reindeer Run from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. today during the continuation of their Holiday Hoopla.

Jaylene Watkins, DBA member and marketing director for Centramedia, said the Reindeer Run is a contest that is similar to the old-fashioned scavenger hunt or poker run.

"Shoppers must visit each participating business and receive a special marking on their game card between the hours of 6 and 8 p.m. each Thursday," Watkins said. "Once the shopper has completed his or her game card, it will be entered into a grand prize drawing which will be awarded at 7 p.m. Dec. 20 in front of Brandon's Flowers. So, participants have three

See DBA, Page 3



Pampa News Photo by KERRI SMITH

Employees of Centramedia get into the holiday spirit to help promote Pampa Downtown Business Association's Holiday Hoopla, where participating businesses stay open from 6-8 p.m. Thursdays through Christmas. They are pictured in front of the Reindeer Run grand prize basket which will be awarded Dec. 20. From left are Jaylene Watkins, marketing director; Tarell Dyer, sales manager; Lois Harris, accounting; and Pam Williams, receptionist.

Deputy McDonald dies after accident

Gray County Deputy Sheriff Jimmy Joe McDonald, 65, died Thursday at Northwest Texas Hospital in Amarillo.

McDonald was involved in a traffic collision while on duty around 4 p.m. Wednesday in McLean when his patrol car struck another vehicle and a light pole, according to Lt. Joe B. Hoard of the sheriff's office. There were no other injuries.

McDonald was taken to NWTX by McLean ambulance where he died shortly before 2 a.m. today.

"We are saddened by the loss of Jim McDonald from our sheriff's office family," Sheriff Don Copeland said today. "Jim was not only a loyal and trusted deputy sheriff but also a longtime personal friend and co-worker. Jim spent almost his entire adult life in service to Gray County and its citizens,

especially in the McLean and south Gray County area.




"He was an EMT with the McLean ambulance service, a longtime active volunteer and former chief of the McLean Volunteer Fire Department, Gray County constable and deputy sheriff. He was a resident deputy sheriff in McLean at the time of his death.

"Jim cared deeply for his job and the people he was able to help. He was responsible for calls on Interstate 40, where he dealt with everything from flat tires to armed felons, many times with no backup readily available. He was a man of courage and conviction, a man who could get the job done, and his passing leaves a void in our agency."

Hoard said the accident is being investigated by the Texas Department of Public Safety.

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NEXT DAY FORECAST

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|  |  |  |
| Mostly cloudy | Mostly cloudy | Sunny |

Friday: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 53. Wind chill values between 27 and 37 early. North-northwest wind between 10 and 15 mph.
Friday Night: A 50 percent chance of rain. Cloudy, with a low around 41. Southeast wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.
Saturday: A 30 percent chance of rain. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 64. Windy, with a south-southwest wind between 20 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.
Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 43. Southwest wind around 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.
Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 58. North-northwest wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.
Sunday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 28. Northeast wind around 10 mph becoming south.

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Police: Man called ex, set fire before slaying

HOUSTON (AP) — Hours before Jason Hawkins killed a mall worker then took his own life, he called his ex-wife, expressed his love to her and apparently set fire to the business where he worked, authorities said.
 The Ohio native's destructive path appears to have started Tuesday around 6:40 a.m. when police said he was seen leaving his job at an AT&T store. Ten minutes later the business was in flames, catching the attention of arson investigators.
 Hawkins, 33, was later spotted at a gym in Greenspoint Mall. It's unclear how long he remained at the gym, but shortly before 10 a.m., Joanna Starr Gonzales, an employee at a lingerie shop in the mall, had been shot to death by Hawkins.
 Police said Gonzales was a victim of opportunity and had no ties to Hawkins, who grabbed her as she was raising the security gate at the mall's Body Luxuries shop. Hawkins, who didn't have a criminal record, moved to Houston about a year and a half ago and was about to be evicted from his apartment, said Michael Miller, HPD homicide investigator.



Nov. 29
26 shopping days to Christmas

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 sponsored by Tralee Crisis Center

THE NUTCRACKER
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 December 1st at 7:30pm
 at The MK Brown Auditorium

FESTIVAL OF TREES
 December 1st and 2nd
 at MK Brown Auditorium

CHRISTMAS PARADE AND PAMPA SHOP AND WIN DRAWINGS
 December 8th at 2:00pm

ALTRUSA'S SOUP WITH MRS. CLAU
 December 8th 11:00am to 3:30pm
 at The Pampa Hardware Building

CHILDREN'S SHOPPING TOUR
 December 15th at 8:00am
 at The Optimist Club

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Obituaries

Bobby Lee Hargrove, 47

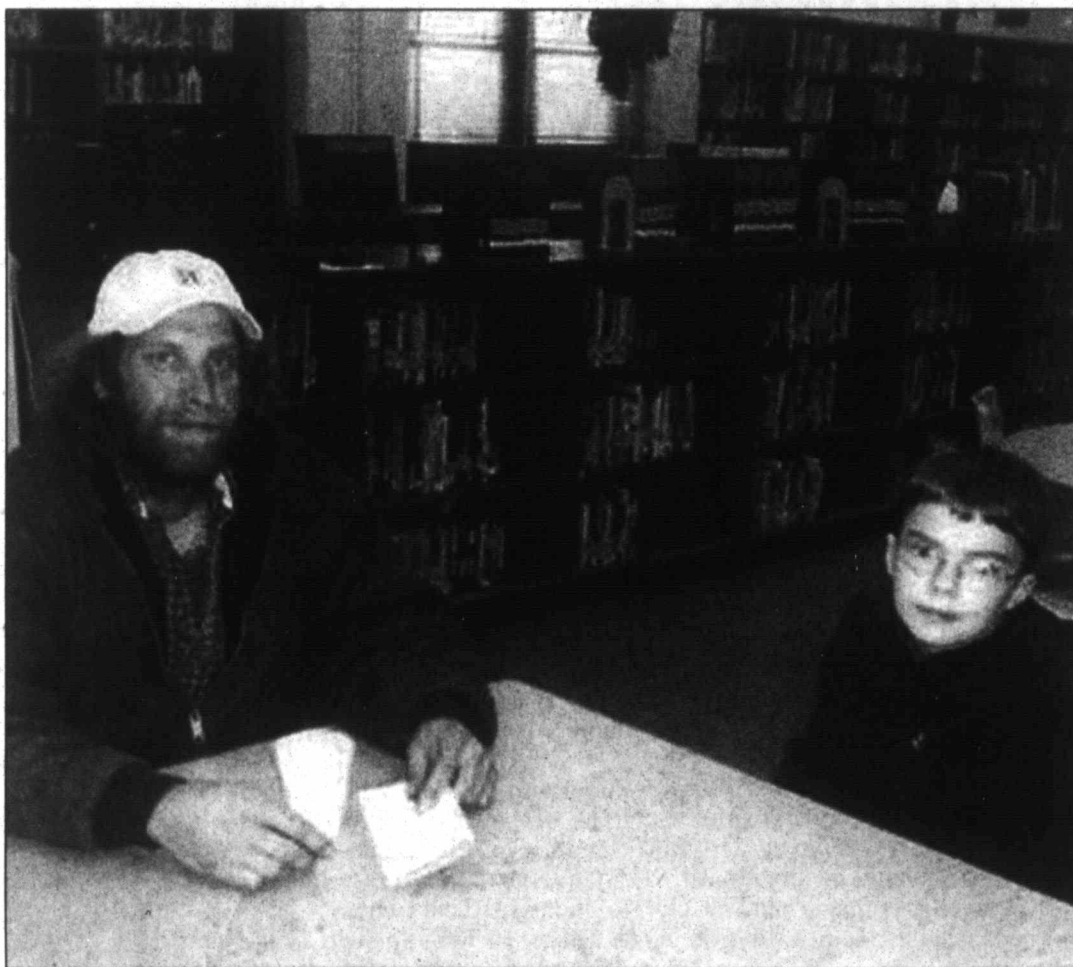
MINEOLA — Bobby Lee Hargrove, 47, died Monday, Nov. 26, 2007. Services were scheduled at 11 a.m. today at Beaty Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Craig Lacy officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Beaty Funeral Home of Mineola.
 Mr. Hargrove was born March 3, 1960, at Spearman, the son of Vester Hargrove of Pampa and Carol Lea Melzer Weiss of Amarillo.
 Survivors include his wife, Rhonda Jane Dugan Hargrove of Mineola; a

daughter, Melody Dawn Hargrove of Dallas; a son, Kyle Ray Hargrove of Salt Lake City, Utah; his parents; a sister, Nancy Mackie of Cathedral City, Calif.; and a brother, Denny Ray Hargrove of Amarillo.

Jim McDonald

McLEAN — Jim McDonald of Amarillo. Services are pending with McLean. McLean died Thursday, Nov. 29, 2007, Bailey-Ware Funeral Home of

'Breakfast with Dad'



⚡ **Tim and Jacob Sexton at "Breakfast with Dad" recently at Pampa Junior High School.**

Stocks

The following grain quotations are provided by Attebury Grain of White Deer.

| | |
|----------|------|
| Wheat | 7.96 |
| Milo | 6.20 |
| Corn | 6.91 |
| Soybeans | 9.22 |

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

| | | |
|---------------|-------|-------|
| OXY | 70.48 | +0.69 |
| BP PLC ADR | 72.50 | +0.01 |
| Cabot Corp | 32.59 | +0.25 |
| Celanese | 38.52 | +0.03 |
| Cabot Oil Gas | 34.56 | +0.72 |
| Coca Cola | 63.05 | +0.06 |
| VLO | 63.82 | +0.79 |
| HAL | 36.24 | +0.48 |
| XCEL | 22.68 | +0.08 |
| Anadarko | 56.70 | +1.45 |
| XOM | 88.60 | +0.68 |
| Nat'l Oilwell | 68.28 | +1.92 |
| Limited | 19.21 | -0.03 |
| Williams | 34.63 | +0.65 |
| MCD | 57.77 | -0.20 |
| Atmos | 26.21 | +0.01 |
| Pioneer Nat | 44.02 | +0.59 |
| JCP | 43.35 | -0.18 |
| COP | 78.52 | +0.80 |
| SLB | 91.37 | +0.74 |
| Tenneco | 29.29 | -0.45 |
| CVX | 86.52 | +0.46 |
| Wal-Mart | 47.07 | -0.16 |
| OKE | 46.01 | -0.04 |

New York Gold.....807.20
 Silver.....14.53
 West Texas Crude.....90.62

Emergency Services

Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents for the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.
 Fourteen traffic stops were made which resulted in two arrests.
 Traffic complaints were made from the 400 block of North Hobart, the 2800 block of North Charles and the 700 block of North Davis.
 Accidents were reported in the 1400 block of North Hobart, in the police department lobby and the 2400 block of North Charles.
 Criminal mischief was reported in the 100 block of North Gray, where a vehicle sustained \$1,415 in damages from deep scratches on doors and fenders; and the 700 block of North Somerville, where Christmas decorations valued at \$30 were damaged.
 A civil matter in a child custody dispute was reported in the 600 block of North Dwight.

Warrant service was attempted at one location, resulting in an arrest.
 Disorderly conduct calls came in from the 800 block of West Foster and the 400 block of South Cuyler.
 A gasoline drive off was reported in the 200 block of West 28th.
 Suspicious persons were reported at the intersection of Wilks and Llano, and in the 800 block of Lefors.
 A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 300 block of North Sumner.
 A prowler was reported in the 900 block of South Finley.
 A welfare check was made in the 1400 block of North Russell.
 Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests today.
Wednesday, Nov. 28
 Jon Wyatt Roe, 38, of

Lefors was arrested by GCSO on bond surrenders for injury to a child, abandonment and endangering a child, motion to revoke probation for assault and failure to ID as a fugitive.
 Kevin Michael Oneal, 45, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO on a blue warrant.
Thursday, Nov. 29
 Kenyon James Kendall, 21, of Pampa was arrested by Pampa Police Department in the 800 block of North Lefors for no valid driver's license.
 William Stephen Martin, 27, of Amarillo was arrested by GCSO for motion to revoke probation for resisting arrest, search or transport.
 Guardian EMS ambulance reported the following calls during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.
Wednesday, Nov. 28
 9:44 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1900 block of Duncan and transported a patient to Pampa Regional Medical Center.
 12:34 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 700 block of East Browning and transported a patient to PRMC.
 2:20 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transported a patient to Northwest Texas Hospital in Amarillo.
 3:11 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to a local nursing facility and transported a patient to PRMC.
 5:39 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1000 block of South Nelson on a fire standby.
 A story in Wednesday's Pampa News reported the planned construction on the Mullinaw-McBride Road at Lake Meredith National Recreation Area next week.
 The contractor hired to do the job will not be able to perform the road repairs due to unforeseen circumstances, according to Rozanna M. Pfeiffer, chief of interpretation at the lake.

CITY BRIEFS

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

A FUN Christmas Outing- Cut your own tree. Scotch Pine. Open Weekends Sat. 9:30-5:30, Sun 1:30-5:30 Free ornament, Hot Cider & Cookies. 665-0123 -3.5 mi. N of Pampa on Hwy 70, 1/2 mi W. on County Line Rd

A&T YARD Service, 1305 S. Hobart, 669-9000, now has "Fresh Cut Christmas Trees!"

COME BY M.K. Brown Friday 9-5 to purchase your Tree of Hope ornaments.

COME BY Pampa Custom Framing tonight from 5:30-8 to purchase your ornaments for the Tree Of Hope in memory of cancer survivors or in memory of a loved one that suffered from cancer.

CUSTOM PICTURE Fram- ing at Pampa Glass & Supply, 1432 N. Banks. Order now for Christmas!!

DIAMONDS AND Door- knobs Open house Thurs. Nov. 29th 6-8pm. Pandora Jewelry showcase. Door prizes & refreshments. 1508 N. Hobart, 665-5090

FESTIVAL OF Trees, M.K. Brown Auditorium, Sat. Dec. 1st 10am-10pm & Sun., Dec. 2nd 1pm-3pm. Bring socks and items for soldiers!!

JOY'S UNLIMITED open Thurs. 6-8pm. Store Special-Candle Warmers 40% Off!! Register for door prizes!

LOST FE. Australian Terrier, Travis Sch. area, black & brown, "Skippy." 662-9248.

PACK 'N' Mail will be open Sat. Dec. 1st, 8th, & 15th from 10am-5pm for all your packing & shipping needs.

PARTY TRAYS for the Holidays!! Call Hoagies Deli, 665-0292.

SANTA PICTURES Thurs. Nov 29th, 6-8pm. \$5 - 5x7s. No appt. necessary Shutterbug Photography 108 E. Francis, 669-1441

TOURNAMENTS ARE back! Bonapart's Retreat, 120 W. Foster.

Charity

Continued from Page 1

Mart and United Supermarket now until Christmas. Monetary donations collected by the bell ringers go toward funding Salvation Army projects. Last year, Pampa bell ringers collected just under \$13,000, according to Capt. Mark Martin.

Donations to the Socks for Soldiers campaign are also due by Dec. 17. The Amarillo-based campaign collects items for care packages to be distributed to U.S. soldiers stationed overseas.

Enough packages are sent to distribute to an entire platoon or unit so that no one is left out, according to a Socks for Soldiers spokeswoman. In the four years that the program has existed, care packages have been sent to military in Afghanistan, Iraq and other foreign countries and also those aboard ships.

Items that are donated should be trial size, and any food items should be non-perishable.

Suggested donations include packages of white crew socks, small packs of drink mixes, wet wipes, lotion, shampoo, liquid soap, disposable razors, toothbrushes, toothpaste, eye drops, foot powder, hand sani-

tizer, stick-type lip balm, beef jerky, sunflower seeds and other snack foods.

Participating businesses with collection boxes for donations are Brandon's Flowers, Carousel Expressions, Centramedia, The Coffee Shop, Holmes Sports Center, Joy's Unlimited, Pampa Custom Framing, The Pampa News and Rheams Diamond Shop.

Culberson-Stowers Inc. is once again collecting toys for its Toys for Tots campaign.

The auto dealership will have a box near its Christmas tree on the showroom floor at 805 N. Hobart. Toys collected during the campaign will be distributed to local children by the Salvation Army, said a dealership spokeswoman.

Toys donated to the Toys for Tots program should be unwrapped.

A warm winter is the goal of the second annual "Warm Hearts, Warm Homes" blanket and heater drive sponsored by Adult Protective Services and its volunteer groups, the Silver Star Boards.

New blankets and new space heaters may be dropped off at any Texas Department of Family and Protective Services office, of which Adult Protective Services is a part.

The Pampa office is located at 1517 N. Banks, telephone 669-1888.

White House lowers economic forecast

By JEANNINE AVERSA

AP Economics Writer
WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House today lowered its forecast for economic growth for next year and said unemployment will likely rise as the housing slump and tight credit stunt business expansion.

Under the administration's new forecast, gross domestic product, or GDP, will grow by 2.7 percent next year. Its old projection called for a stronger, 3.1 percent increase.

"The housing market decline has been more significant than we expected," Edward Lazear, chairman of

the White House's Council of Economic Advisers, told reporters in a conference call. That more pronounced housing slump — along with the expectation that problems will persist into next year — was a big factor in the administration's downgrade of its economic growth forecast for 2008.

With the projection of slowing economic growth, the unemployment rate is projected to move up to 4.9 percent next year. That's up from a previous forecast of a 4.7 percent jobless rate but still would be considered fairly low by historical standards. The unemployment

rate last year dipped to 4.6 percent, a six-year low.

Inflation, however, should improve. The White House expects consumer prices to increase by 2.1 percent next year, a moderation from a previous forecast of a 2.5 percent rise. That's encouraging news as oil prices have marched past \$92 a barrel.

"While the difficulties in housing and credit markets and the effects of high energy prices will extract a penalty from growth, the U.S. economy has many strengths, and I expect the expansion to continue," said Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson.

The odds of a recession have grown this year. But the Bush administration, Federal Reserve officials and others

remain hopeful that one can be avoided.

The big worry for economists is that consumers and businesses will cut back on spending and investing, sending the economic growth into a tailspin. Spending by consumers and businesses is the lifeblood of the country's economic activity.

The White House's economic forecasts are issued twice a year. The projections were developed mainly by a team from the Council of Economic Advisers, the Treasury Department and the Office of Management and Budget. The administration's projections are in line with those offered by private ana-

Highway 60 traffic redirected

BY KERRI SMITH

Staff Writer
Texas Department of Transportation issued a news release today to inform motorists traveling on Highway 60 between Amarillo and Panhandle that traffic will be redirected for a while.

Beginning today, traffic will be switched to one-lane in each direction on Highway 60 at the FM 2373

interchange. Vehicles will be separated by a concrete median. This is being done to make room for work on the new FM 2373 overpass.

Motorists who use FM 2373 will also make a slight detour while work is in progress, but that road will remain open for now.

TxDOT urges motorists to slow down and be alert in these work areas, especially when workers are present.

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FRIDAY 11/30 & 12/7 • 11:00-1:30 & 5:00-8:30
SATURDAY 12/1 & 12/8 • 11:00-1:30 & 5:00-8:30



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County

Continued from Page 1

If a reinvestment zone is established in the area where the proposed wind farm is built, Mesa Power may apply for tax abatements from the county. Abatements consist of a schedule of no more than 10 years of discounted property taxes to be paid by the company.

A usage fee for White Deer Land Museum was also tabled at the Nov. 15 meeting and will be discussed again at Friday's meeting.

Other items on Friday's agenda include a Gray County employee health insurance reinsurance proposal, the county's 2008 holiday schedule, line item transfers and payment of bills and salaries.

DBA

Continued from Page 1

Thursdays in which to get their card stamped."

The grand prize is a basket full of gifts worth more than \$500 in donated merchandise from Rheams Diamond Shop, Centramedia, Joy's Unlimited, Carousel Expressions, Holmes Sports, Brandon's Flowers and Pampa Custom Framing.

To participate in the Reindeer Run, go by any of the participating businesses and pick up a game card.

When you visit the last merchant and get your game card filled up, you can leave your card at that location.

Businesses that are participating in the Reindeer Run are Brandon's Flowers, 123 N. Cuyler; Carousel Expressions, 113 N. Cuyler; Centramedia, 112 E. Francis; Joy's Unlimited, 110 N. Cuyler; Rheams Diamond Shop, 111 N. Cuyler; and Pampa Custom Framing, 107 N. Cuyler.

For more information about the Reindeer Run or Holiday Hoopla, contact Watkins at 665-0106 or DBA President Ken Rheams at 665-2831.

BEALLS

Give & Be Merry!

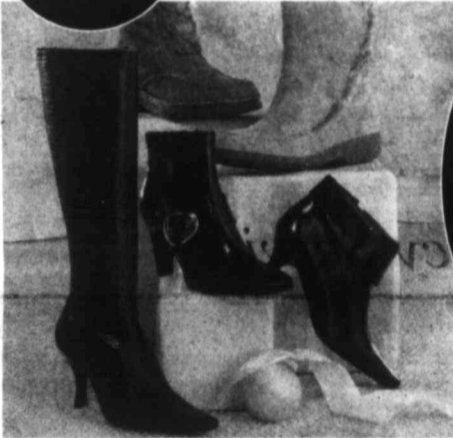

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Holiday Kick-Off Sale!

HURRY IN! SAVE 50% ON GREAT GIFTS STOREWIDE

50% OFF

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Prices effective thru December 3, 2007. Interim markdowns may have been taken. Entire stocks only where indicated. Selection varies by store.

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www.HerOption.com

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Viewpoints

Loving someone with AD can be challenging

In my last column, I printed excerpts from an interview with Diane Marcello, director of Sunnyside Health Services, on the subject of Alzheimer's. November is being celebrated as National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month. The interview with Marcello was published in the American Health Assistance Foundation's November newsletter. The interview culminated with this question, "What is the most important advice you give to family and

friends of those who have Alzheimer's disease?" Marcello answered: "It is difficult to deal with Alzheimer's disease, especially when the person affected is a loved one with whom you are so closely connected. However, people should try to accept the individual where he or she is in the disease process and attempt to make life as pleasant as possible. This may not be the person you remember, but you will always cherish those memories. Even though your loved one may

not remember who you are, keep in mind that this is a person you love, and one who deserves the best you can give him. Simply being with your loved one provides comfort, and is a wonderful gift for both of you." As we prepare to say good-bye to yet another month, I will conclude this week's column with the following facts provided by the foundation:

• AD (Alzheimer's) is now estimated to affect more than 4.5 million people in the U.S. By 2050, the number could increase to 13.2 million.
• One in 8 people age 65 and over, and nearly 1 in 2 over age 85 have AD.
• Age is the single biggest risk factor for AD.

Approximately 4 million Americans are 85 or older, and this age group is one of the fastest growing segments of the population.
• On average, AD patients live for 8 to 10 years after diagnosis, but the disease can last for as long as 20 years.
• Health care expenses and lost wages for patients and caregivers are thought to be \$100 billion annually.
• The average cost of the disease from diagnosis until death is estimated at \$174,000. The yearly cost of

caring for an AD patient ranges from \$18,000 to \$36,000.
• Approximately 70 percent of AD patients live at home where families care for them.
• The average annual cost of a private room in a nursing home is \$74,095; an assisted living facility averages \$34,860 annually.
According to the foundation, Area Agencies on Aging can be a great resource for families dealing with a loved one newly diagnosed with AD.

Skyla Bryant
News Editor



Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Nov. 29, the 333rd day of 2007. There are 32 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:
On Nov. 29, 1963, President Johnson named a commission headed by Chief Justice Earl Warren to investigate the assassination of President Kennedy.

On this date:
In 1530, Cardinal Thomas Wolsey, one-time adviser to England's King Henry VIII, died.

In 1864, a Colorado militia killed at least 150 peaceful Cheyenne Indians in the Sand Creek Massacre.

In 1924, Italian composer Giacomo Puccini died in Brussels before he could complete his opera "Turandot." (It was finished by Franco Alfano.)

In 1947, the U.N. General Assembly passed a resolution calling for the partitioning of the British-mandated territory of Palestine between Arabs and Jews.

In 1961, Enos, the chimp, was launched from Cape Canaveral aboard the Mercury-Atlas V spacecraft, which orbited Earth twice before returning.

In 1967, Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara announced he was leaving the Johnson administration to become president of the World Bank.

In 1981, actress Natalie Wood drowned in a boating accident off Santa Catalina Island, Calif., at age 43.

In 1986, actor Cary Grant died in Davenport, Iowa, at age 82.

In 1987, a Korean Air jetliner disappeared off Burma, with the loss of all 115 people aboard; South Korean authorities charged North Korean agents had planted a bomb aboard the aircraft.

In 2001, George Harrison, the "quiet Beatle," died in Los Angeles following a battle with cancer; he was 58.

Ten years ago: Former Detroit Mayor Coleman A. Young, the city's first black mayor who held office for an unprecedented five terms, died at age 79.

Five years ago: The White House quietly announced that federal workers would get a smaller pay raise the following month because President Bush was freezing part of the increase, citing the fight against terrorism. Celebrity publicist Lizzie Grubman left the Suffolk County, N.Y., jail after serving 37 days of a 60-day sentence for backing her sport utility vehicle into a crowd outside a trendy Hamptons nightclub and fleeing.

One year ago: The first of two high-profile meetings in Jordan between Bush and Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki was abruptly canceled amid conflicting explanations. (Bush met al-Maliki the next day.) Still losing money after job and factory cuts, Ford Motor Co. said 38,000 workers, almost half of its hourly production force, had accepted buyouts or early retirement offers.

'A man does what he must — in spite of personal consequences, in spite of obstacles and dangers and pressures — and that is the basis of all human morality.'

— John F. Kennedy
U.S. president



Making the most of spreadsheet program

Here's a test: In the business world, name the top three uses for a personal computer. Give up? They are: Word Processing, Internet access, and spreadsheet use. Chances are, you're familiar with the first two. A word processor is simply a glorified typewriter. Examples include Microsoft Word, Microsoft Works and WordPerfect. Internet access includes Web research and e-mail use.

Most people, however, when asked to describe a spreadsheet program, don't know where to start. Think of a spreadsheet as "a calculator on steroids." Any project requiring calculations (or "number crunching" as we like to call it) will benefit from the use of a spreadsheet program. Examples (in their order of popularity) include Microsoft Excel, Lotus 1-2-3, Quattro Pro and Microsoft Works.

In the spreadsheet world, more than 95 percent of users prefer Microsoft Excel. Lotus 1-2-3 used to be the leader in this market, but they couldn't compete against the Microsoft juggernaut.

To that end, if you haven't bought a spreadsheet program yet, choose Excel.

A spreadsheet is the document you create in a spreadsheet program (Excel). It doesn't look like a big blank sheet of paper, though. A spreadsheet looks like a grid. Across the top, you have columns, labeled, A, B, C, D, etc. Down the left hand-side, you'll see rows, numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, etc. A typical spreadsheet will have 256 columns and 65,000 rows.

The intersection of each column and row is represented by a rectangular object called a "cell." Cells hold your data. Specifically, they can hold a number, some text or a formula. (Advanced users of Excel will dispute that point with me, listing the many other data types that a cell can hold. However, for the purposes of this ground-zero explanation, let's keep it at three.) If you have Excel open,

follow along with this example. Click cell A1. Type the number 45. Click cell A2. Type 57. Guess what we want to do in cell A3? That's right, add the previous two cells together. Click on cell A3. We're going to enter a formula.

A formula is simply a calculation that will give us the answer to our mathematical dilemma. We have to let Excel know, though, that we are entering a formula and not some text or another number. To do that, we always start by typing an equal sign (=). The equal sign denotes the beginning of a formula. So, with no spaces, we enter "=A1+A2" and hit the enter key. If you did it correctly, you should see 102 in cell A3.

Some clarification may be needed at this point. The number 102 is not stored in cell A3. A3 contains a formula. You are simply seeing the result of that formula. To see what is actually stored in

cell A3, double-click on it. When you're done looking at the formula, hit the ESC key.

We could have, just as easily, subtracted one number from another by using a minus sign (-) instead of the plus. For multiplication, use the asterisk (*), not the X. For division, you would use the forward slash (/).

Formulas can be very long with multiple cell addresses referenced. And, yes, you may use parenthesis just as you did in long calculations in your high school algebra class.

At this point, you may be thinking, "Eric, I could have done this much quicker on my calculator!" True, but stick with me. You're about to learn the true purpose of spreadsheets.

Let's say you entered the wrong number in cell A1. Instead of 45, you meant to type 76. Instead of having to "redo" the calculation from scratch (which you would have to do with a calculator), simply click on cell A1, type 76, and hit the enter key.

See NUMBERS, Page 5

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Texas Thoughts

By The Associated Press

A sampling of editorial opinion around Texas:

■ Nov. 17
San Antonio Express-News on the fight in Sudan:

The genocide in slow motion that has unfolded in Darfur during the past four years shows no signs of abating. The latest outrage by the Sudanese government is the expulsion of aid workers providing humanitarian relief to millions of refugees, including the top United Nations humanitarian official in South Darfur.

What little progress that has been

made in slowing the catastrophe in western Sudan can be attributed to two efforts.

One is the diplomatic process at the U.N. Security Council, though frustratingly slow, spearheaded by the Bush administration. Thousands continue to die as the government of President Omar al-Bashir evades the U.N.'s diplomatic pronouncements.

The other is the grass-roots effort that has emerged in the United States to financially punish foreign companies that act as the corporate enablers of genocide.

U.S. law prohibits most American companies from doing business in

Sudan. The campaign to divest the stocks of European and, especially, Chinese companies that empower the al-Bashir regime has, in a relatively short time, had a significant effect.

Twenty states and many more cities and municipalities have initiated some form of divestment, including Texas. The Legislature authorized the Teacher Retirement System and the Employees Retirement System to divest the assets of firms doing business in Sudan.

Unfortunately, a campaign that can affect billions of dollars in assets can also generate legal challenges. So

See SUDAN, Page 5

Events calendar

• **The next meeting of Top O' Texas Republican Women** will be at 12 p.m. Dec. 5 at the home of Kerrick Horton in Pampa. Visitors are welcome.

• **Lovett Memorial Library** in Pampa will stage its December "Story Time" at 10 a.m. Dec. 5, 12 and 19 at the library. Story Time is open to children between 18 months and 4 years of age. A Christmas party is planned the 19th. For more information, call the library.

• **The Texas Department of State Health Services** will be offering immunization clinics for vaccines that give protection against several childhood diseases. The TDH will charge money to help with the cost of keeping the clinic open. The amount charged will be based on family income and size, and the ability to pay. The following clinic(s) will be offered: 9:30-11:30 a.m. and 1-3 p.m., Dec. 5 and 19, TDH, 736 S. Cuyler, Pampa.

• **Leadership Perryton** with Western Hot Oil will present Phillip Van Hooser of Princeton, Ky., in a motivational seminar titled

"Leading With Change" from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Dec. 6 at Frank Phillips College Allen Campus in Perryton. Hooser draws upon his experience as a manager for Fortune 500 heavy manufacturing and consumer products companies. His approach is based on actual experience and incorporates practical applications. Registration will be from 6-6:30 p.m. Admission will be free. To find out more, contact the Perryton Ochiltree County Chamber of Commerce at (806) 435-6575. For more about Hooser, log onto www.vanhooser.com on the Internet.

• **Pampa Altrusa Club** will hold "Soup with Mrs. Claus" from 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Dec. 8 at the old Pampa Hardware Building, 120 N. Cuyler. Cost is \$5 per person and \$6 per person at the door. Soup and corn dogs will be served.

• **Memory Gardens of Pampa** will host a Christmas candlelight service at 6 p.m. Dec. 10 at Memory Gardens Cemetery. Over 1,000 luminaries will be lit until 11 p.m.

Ex-Lynyrd Skynyrd drummer arrested

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla. (AP) — Former Lynyrd Skynyrd drummer Artimus Pyle has been arrested a second time after failing to properly register as a sex offender, sheriff's officials said.

The 59-year-old musician, whose real name is Thomas Delmer Pyle, was arrested Tuesday at one of three addresses he gave to authorities, Sgt. Chuck Mulligan said. He was being held Wednesday on \$50,000 bond, Mulligan told The Florida Times-Union. Jail records do not show whether he had a lawyer.

Pyle had been released on \$10,000 bond after being arrested on the same charge Nov. 19. He was arrested

again after he still didn't register a new permanent address, officials said.

The address on Pyle's driver's license no longer belongs to the musician, Mulligan said. He said Pyle has a home in North Carolina but has told authorities he wants to register at a Florida address.

Pyle pleaded guilty in 1993 to charges of attempted capital sexual battery by an adult on a victim younger than 12 and being principal to lewd and lascivious behavior on a child younger than 16. He was sentenced to eight years of probation.

According to Lynyrd Skynyrd's Web site, Pyle joined the band in 1975 and left in 1992.

Numbers

Continued from Page 4

What happened? You'll notice that cell A3 automatically updated the formula's result with the new number. And that, my friends, is what makes spreadsheets shine. If you had a spreadsheet full of data and formulas, making any changes in the data will INSTANTLY update every formula affected by that data. That's why spreadsheets are used so extensively in budgeting and accounting applications. You can play the "What if ..." game by changing various numbers to see how they impact the bottom line.

Today's job market environment is unique. We have more workers than jobs. Employers can be a little pickier than they used to. Most jobs require word processing and spreadsheet experience. If you're a little weak in the spreadsheet arena, consider taking a class (hint, hint). Check out my Web site (<http://www.eric-spellmann.com>) for full course descriptions. I'll see you in Cyberspace!

Sudan

Continued from Page 4

Congress has sought to create a legal framework that protects state divestment efforts. The House in July passed the Sudan Accountability and Divestment Act by a 418-1 vote. In addition to protecting states, it also prohibits the U.S. government from contracting with foreign companies that empower the Sudanese government.

Now the Senate is moving forward on the act with bipartisan support. But the Bush administration has asked the senators to delay a final vote, objecting that the measure interferes with the president's foreign policy powers and could weaken investor protections.

White House opposition to the act is misguided. States should have the right to responsibly invest and divest taxpayer dollars as they see fit. Moreover, President Bush should recognize the contribution the divestment campaign has made to peace efforts in Darfur.

If he is serious about ending the violence, Bush should see the grass-roots effort as a complement, not an impediment, to his diplomatic efforts. URL: <http://www.mysa.com>

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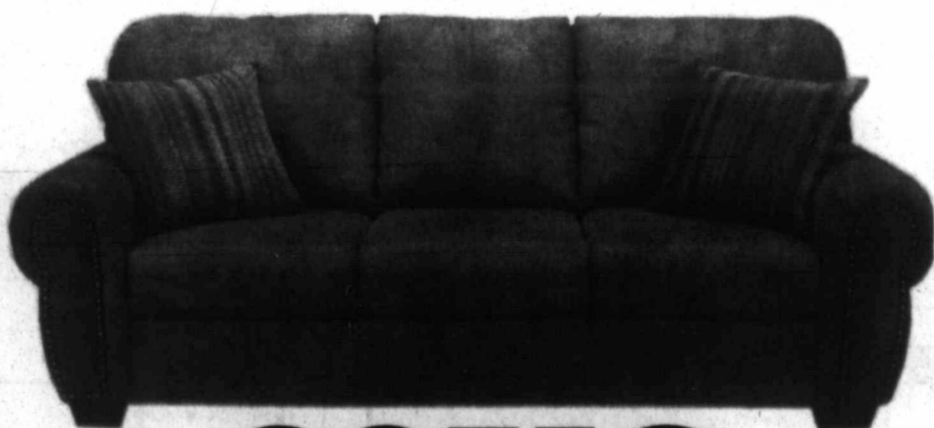
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Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I have been reading the letters you print about acts of kindness and want to tell you what happened to me. Three years ago, when I was eight months pregnant with my first child, I was driving to the University of Houston's gift shop when a tire on my car blew out. It was a hot Saturday afternoon, and the campus was nearly deserted. No one at the gift shop would help me out, so I made it to a gas station on the edge of campus. It was located in an area of town to which many people wouldn't travel alone. As soon as I pulled in, a man came to my window, banged on it, and began shouting at me. Four other men who had been washing windshields for spare change immediately surrounded my car and shoed the first man away. I was nervous, but I got out, and they let me through. The gas station attendant refused to come out to help me. I tried calling my husband for help, but my cell phone wasn't working. The same four men assessed the situation and offered to help me fill my tire, but the tire was too damaged. They asked me for my spare, but because the car was new I had no idea where it was located. Well, they found the spare and had my tire fixed in no time. While they were working, two of the men told me about their lives, their grandkids, etc. I felt horrible for having prejudged them simply because the neighborhood they lived in wasn't as affluent as my own. Not one of them would accept my offer of money. I am grateful that God sent me four unlikely guardian angels that day. -- **MICHELLE, LEAGUE CITY, TEXAS**

DEAR MICHELLE: Thank you for pointing out that although the crime rate may be higher in lower income neighborhoods, living in one does not make anyone a criminal. We live in an increasingly diverse soci

ety today, racially, ethnically and economically. To automatically stereotype people because of how they look, their regional (or foreign) accent, the way they dress or where they live is not only a mistake, it is also a sign of ignorance.

DEAR ABBY: I'm only 16, but I want to ask my parents if I could start seeing a therapist. I feel like therapy would be a step forward in relieving the stress that depression has been causing me. My problem is approaching my parents about it. I have been depressed for months, but admitting it to them would be embarrassing. I'm afraid their reaction will be anything but understanding. Money is an issue. We're not the richest family, and my parents are saving all the money they can to put me and my siblings through college. I feel that therapy would be a worthwhile investment for me and my future, but I'm wondering how I can convince my parents. Any ideas on how to tackle this? -- **SEARCHING FOR A SHRINK, PORTLAND, MAINE**

DEAR SEARCHING: Because you have been suffering from depression that has lasted more than a few weeks, you should be seen by someone who can evaluate you. I'm sorry you feel reluctant to discuss this with your parents because depression can run in families -- and they might not be as surprised to hear it as you think. However, because you're afraid their reaction will be negative, please discuss this with your teacher or a school counselor who can intercede with your parents and see that you meet at least once with a psychotherapist.

For Better Or For Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

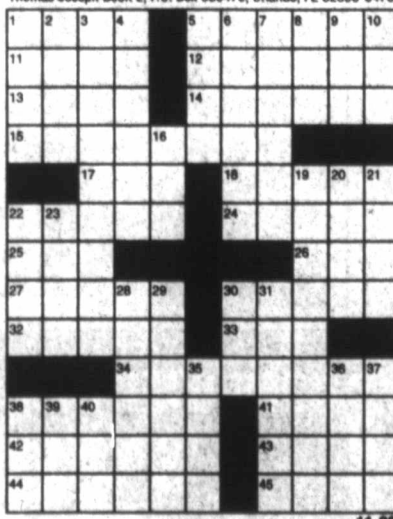
ACROSS DOWN

- 1 Physics amount
- 5 Small trees
- 11 Dull pain
- 12 Service for a social
- 13 Pressing need
- 14 Sci-fi threat
- 15 Crazed Greek letter
- 18 Hawk homes
- 22 Like Swiss cheese
- 24 Kind of committee
- 25 "Exodus" character
- 26 — tear
- 27 Sides in turf wars
- 30 Inverted v
- 32 Wintry weather
- 33 Play part
- 34 Skinks and snakes
- 38 Italian seafood
- 41 Back-gammon need
- 42 Houdini feat
- 43 A party to
- 44 Frank
- 45 Bit of change

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LOUD ANTONY
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LAKE AURA
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YES TBIRD
MOON URN
BELUGA OKAY
ELICIT FAME
TITHES ASST

Yesterday's answer
20 Muscle quality
31 Like lemon juice
21 "Get lost!"
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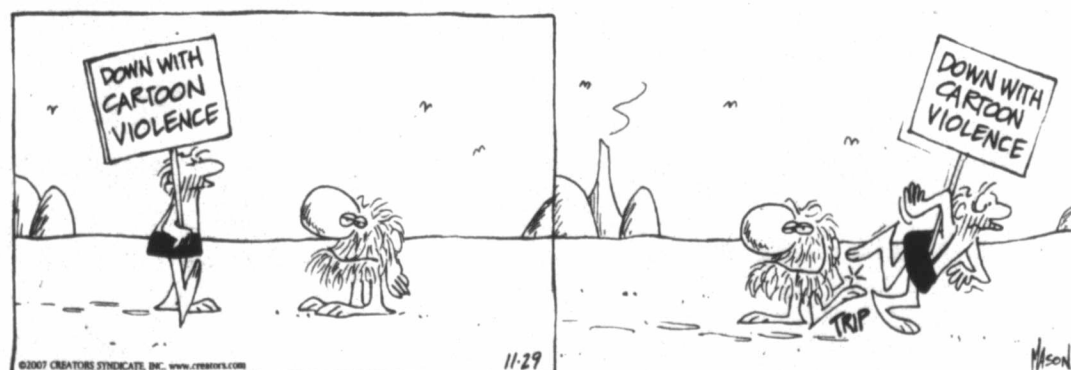
The Family Circus

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



"Could we put an ad in the paper's Lost and Found?"

B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Flo & Friends



BUSINESS REVIEW

Diversified Lenders

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Diversified Lenders can turn your accounts receivable into cash ...

Smart business owners throughout Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Colorado are finding that Smart Money, one of the many services available from Diversified Lenders, Inc., enables them to convert their accounts receivable into immediate cash through a process known as "factoring".

"Many people don't know what factoring is," says Don Roberts, President, in the company's Lubbock offices at 6625 W. 19th St., Suite 114. "Companies simply don't realize that they can sell us their accounts receivable on a monthly basis and get immediate working capital."

Just as important, Smart Money gives businesses access to complete "backroom" services. Backroom services include:

- Billing
- Collections
- eFactor Technology
- Accounts receivable management
- Management reports
- Customer credit evaluations
- Next day funding

"Selling us their accounts receivable enables companies to grow their businesses not only by making capital readily available,

but by solving the cash flow problems created by customers who don't always pay immediately," says Cole Roberts, Vice President, Accounts Receivable Financing Division. "They can now afford to go after that potential new customer who's delayed payment history had before made them unavailable."

Often, Cole adds, the increased availability of capital enables Diversified's clients to make even more money by taking advantage of substantial "early-pay" discounts available from their vendors.

Funds can be directly deposited to customers' designated bank accounts. Smart Money clients can also take advantage of eFactor, an online service that gives clients access to their accounts, view transaction status, submit invoices, manage reports and much more.

"eFactor allows our clients to bring our backroom, into their office," says Vice President of Operations, Glendon Paulk. "Clients can log on and access their accounts anytime, anywhere."

Diversified Lenders also receives client referrals from many banks throughout Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Colorado.

"We work hand-in-hand with the banks," Don explains. "Our factoring services enable us to consider a company's accounts receivable and fund based on that."

If you've been turned down by a bank, Diversified Lenders encourages you to call them for more information.

"We get a lot of referrals from banks when additional funding is needed, or they are not able to service a client," he explains.

Smart Money from Diversified Lenders, Inc. is obviously much more than just another business loan program. It's a way to grow the business in ways previously unavailable to many businesses. When coupled with the factoring division's complete "backroom" services menu, Diversified Lenders, Inc. provides complete cash flow management.

"We provide people with peace-of-mind," Don says. "Many small business owners find that with us, they can eliminate the need to work the business by day and handle invoicing, billing, collections, etc. at night."

Diversified Lenders also can provide financing for equipment purchases. Diversified Lender's Equipment Leasing division allows clients to obtain new equipment, or used, to help grow their companies, to replace a worn out fleet, or to stay ahead of the competition. From small companies to large companies, Diversified Lenders, Inc. can tailor a leasing package to fit your company's needs.

Jeff Horn, Vice President, Equipment Leasing Division says, "If a company is looking to make an equipment purchase, give us a call and we'll structure leasing terms that fit your company's needs."

In its 21st year in business, Diversified Lenders has the management skill, financial resources, industry expertise and product knowledge to serve the needs of their clients. Whether a business, municipality, or bank, you will find that Diversified Lenders has a product to fit your needs.

For more information, please contact Cole Roberts, Jeff Horn or any of the professionals at Diversified Lenders, Inc. at (806) 795-7782 or toll free (800) 288-3024, or visit their Web site at www.diversifiedlenders.com. You can also e-mail Cole at croberts@diversifiedlenders.com or Jeff at jhorn@diversifiedlenders.com.

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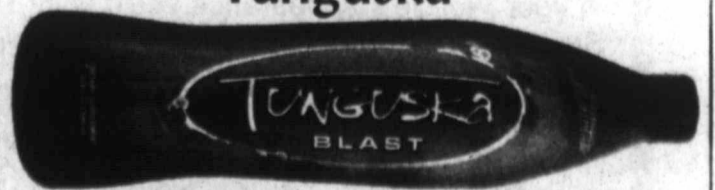
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Police urge people in money grab not to be Grinches

MONTAGUE, Mass. (AP) — Cash fluttering in the breeze might have seemed like a gift from heaven, but anyone in this western Massachusetts town who grabbed some of it is being asked to please give it back.

The money — a total of \$1,100 — belonged to 83-year-old Mary Olive Corbiere, who was banking on it to buy Christmas presents and lost it after a freak accident.

Corbiere had left a drug-store Tuesday and was putting her bags in her car when a wind gust pushed her shopping cart — still containing her purse and cane — into the back of a nearby delivery truck.

The cart somehow became stuck in a rear wheel well before the truck pulled

away and disappeared into traffic.

"Everything was normal, then I turned around and the cart had taken off," said Corbiere, a retired English teacher and nurse.

The cart was dragged for blocks along one of the town's busiest thoroughfares as the driver, oblivious to what had occurred, headed to the next delivery.

Witnesses told police that when the purse finally burst open, strangers stopped and grabbed the fluttering currency, which Corbiere had withdrawn for holiday shopping and bills.

Officers found Corbiere's tattered checkbook and cane — but little cash. They are urging people not to be Grinches and return any of the money they might have found.



COURTESY PHOTO

Coloring contest

Pampa Downtown Business Association recently held a coloring contest and gave forms to all public and private schools in Pampa. The DBA received more than 150 entries in various age groups. Above: (Back row from left) Cherub Whittington, second place grades 4-5; Francisco Venegas, third place grades 4-5; and Cole Davis, first place grades 2-3; (middle, from left) Raymond Mendoza, first place grades K-1; Madison Davis, second place grades K-1; Carolyn Golleher, third place grades K-1; and Moses Avila, second place grades 2-3; (front, from left) Seth Reppart, first place in Pre-K; Cole Salazar, second place in Pre-K; and Guadalupe Macais, third place in grade 2-3. Not pictured: Isabella Hough, third place in Pre-K, and Mireya Salazar, first place in grades 4-5. Prizes were donated by Brandon's Flowers, Carousel Expressions, Holmes Sports, Joy's Unlimited, Rheams Diamond Shop and Shutterbug Photography.

Pipeline fire kills two, sends oil prices soaring

CLEARBROOK, Minn. (AP) — A fire at a pipeline from Canada that feeds oil to the United States killed two

people and sent oil prices soaring before burning out this morning, officials said.

Two workers fixing the underground pipeline were killed when fumes apparently escaped and ignited the blaze in Clearbrook, about 215 miles northwest of Minneapolis, said Kristine Chapin, a spokeswoman for

the Minnesota Department of Public Safety.

The fire along the Enbridge Energy pipeline in northern Minnesota was reported shortly before 4 p.m. Wednesday, the Sheriff's Department said. The fire was out by this morning.

"It looks like it's out now. They're just mopping up and

making sure," said Blake Olson, a terminal supervisor at the pipeline.

The 34-inch pipeline carries crude oil from Saskatchewan to the Chicago area, Chapin said. The pipe had leaked a few weeks ago and was being repaired, she said.

"It appears as though one of those fittings may have failed and caused fumes to leak, and it caught fire," Chapin said. She said there wasn't an explosion and described it as a "big fire."

Nearby residents were evacuated because of the thick black smoke in the sparsely populated area.

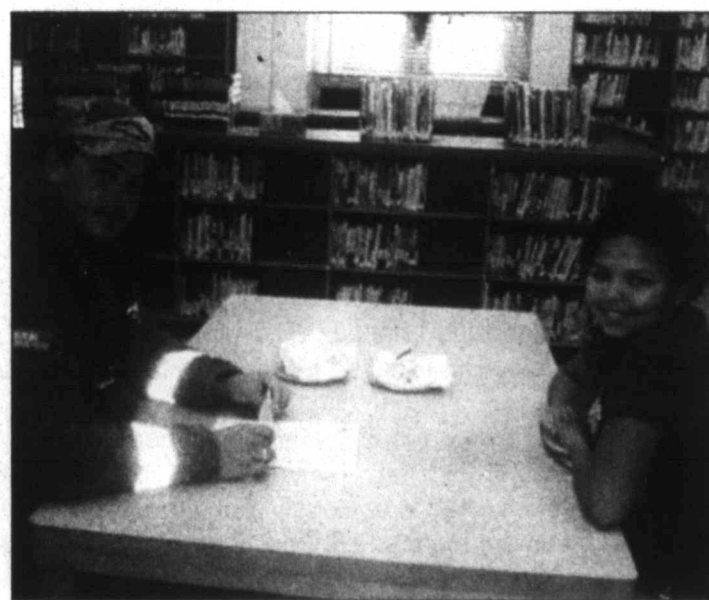
Denise Hamsher, a spokeswoman for Houston-based Enbridge Energy, confirmed late Wednesday that the workers who died were employed by the company. Their names were not immediately released.

The crude oil is used to make several kinds of fuel, such as gasoline and heating oil for homes. An average of 1.5 million barrels of oil passes through the pipeline each day, said another Enbridge spokesman, Larry Springer.

The pipeline that leaked and three others were shut down, Enbridge said. Two of the lines were re-started this morning, Springer said. Another line will be inspected to see if it is safe to come back online, but the line with the leak will likely be out for some time, Springer said. "Nothing is going to be re-started until we're absolutely sure it's safe to be operated," Springer said.

Light, sweet crude for January delivery jumped \$3.78 to \$94.40 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange by late afternoon in Singapore. It climbed as much as \$4.55 to \$95.17 in the electronic session before slipping back.

The contract had plunged \$3.80 to \$90.62 a barrel Wednesday in New York, adding to the previous session's drop of \$3.28. That was a front-month contract's second largest two-day price decline since the Nymex introduced futures trading in 1983.



PJHS

Josh and Mariah Belflower enjoy some extra time together at "Breakfast with Dad" recently at Pampa Junior High School.

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Sports



Pampa News photo by JORDAN REAGAN

Pampa junior Hayden Skinner jumps to take a shot over a Perryton defender in the fourth quarter of Tuesday night's game in Perryton. Skinner was the second-leading scorer of Pampa's 67-58 victory with 11 points.

Pampa varsity boys, girls to play in Gene Messer Tournament this weekend

By JORDAN REAGAN
Sports Editor

This week, the Pampa Harvesters have had much to celebrate — but the week's not over yet.

On Tuesday night, both the boys and the girls varsity teams picked up wins over the Rangers in Perryton, but this weekend they will both face three more opponents in the Gene Messer Tournament of Champions in Canyon.

The boys will face teams from Borger, Cleburne, Lubbock Trinity, Randall, Plainview, Vernon and Canyon, and the girls will face teams from Tascosa, Randall, Duncanville,

Sudan, El Paso Hanks, Panhandle and Canyon.

The tournament will kick off on Friday, and first to hit the courts will be the Pampa Lady Harvesters as they take on Panhandle at 10:30 a.m. at the Canyon High School gym.

In the event that the Lady Harvesters defeat Panhandle, they will take on the winner of Canyon and Sudan at 5 p.m. at the First United Bank Center at the West Texas A&M University campus in Canyon.

The varsity boys are coming off of a successful weekend at the Pampa Lions/VFW Invitation this

past weekend where they took 3rd place, and a big win over Perryton Tuesday.

In their first game of this weekend's tournament, the Pampa Harvesters will take on Plainview at noon Friday, at the Canyon High School gym.

If they win against Plainview, the Harvesters will play the winner of Canyon and Vernon at 6:30 p.m. at the First United Bank Center.

The tournament will continue through Saturday, and the championship games will take place at noon for the girls and at 1:30 p.m. for the boys.

LeBron James injured in 1st half, Cavaliers get blown out

By The Associated Press

The last time LeBron James was in suburban Detroit, he turned in one of the best play-off performances in NBA history.

This time he couldn't make it out of the first half.

James sprained his left index finger in the second quarter Wednesday night, and did not return, and the Detroit Pistons went on to beat the Cleveland Cavaliers 109-74 Wednesday night.

The Pistons insisted the victory didn't mean any less even though it came against a team missing its first, second and third option on offense.

"A win is a win," said Richard Hamilton, who led Detroit with 18 points. "LeBron is a big part of their team, but they've still got five guys with an NBA jersey on the court."

James had scored 48 points, including the final 25 for his team, to lead the Cavs to a win in Game 5 of the conference finals last season. He helped them win the next game at

home to reach the NBA finals for the first time in franchise history.

The Cavs said James' X-rays were negative, adding he would be evaluated again Thursday.

"I think he's day to day," Cleveland coach Mike Brown said. "We'll see how he is tomorrow before we worry about anything beyond that."

James returned to Cleveland's bench late in the third quarter, sporting a suit and turtle-neck, with tape wrapped around his index and middle fingers on his non-shooting hand. Late in the half, ice was packed and wrapped briefly over his left hand.

James did not respond to a few questions as he walked to the team bus after the game carrying a pizza.

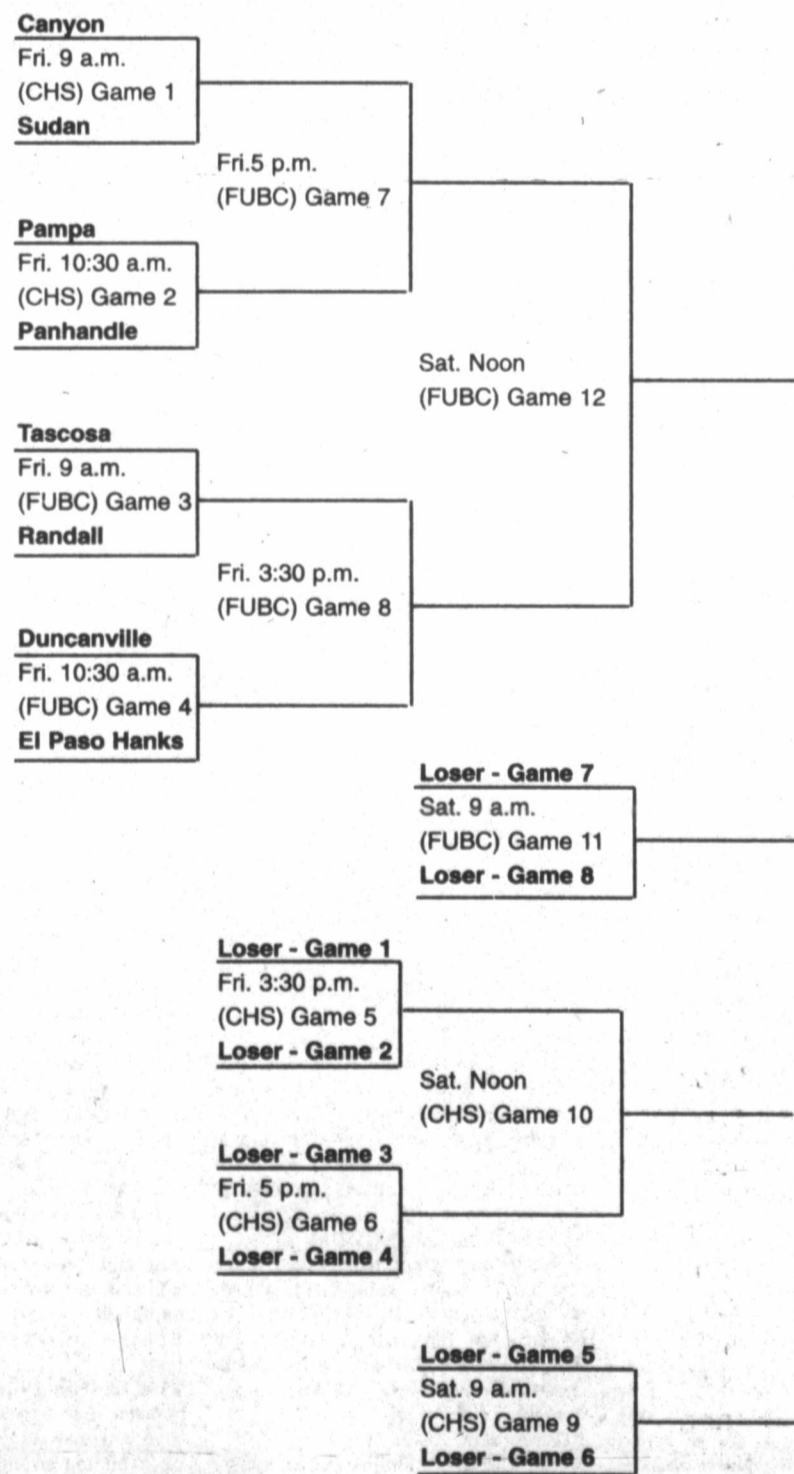
James appeared to be injured with 4:41 left in the first half, when Detroit center Nazr Mohammed fouled him.

"I didn't hit him that hard, but it's easy to sprain a finger," Mohammed said.

Gene Messer Tournament of Champions - Boys bracket



Girls bracket



Police suspect random burglar killed Taylor; grieving Redskins try to move on

ASHBURN, Va. (AP) — Police investigating Sean Taylor's death say they've found no indication the Washington Redskins safety was targeted or knew the assailant who broke into his home.

Miami-Dade police director

Robert Parker called it "more like a random event."

"There's nothing that indicates thus far that there's some kind of involvement on the victim's part," he said Wednesday.

Evidence indicates one or more

intruders barged into Taylor's home in an affluent Miami suburb early Monday, Parker said. After a confrontation inside the house, the 24-year-old was shot once in the upper leg and died early Tuesday after losing a tremendous amount

of blood.

Police said they had no suspects, and were still investigating a possible link to a Nov. 17 break-in at Taylor's home, during which they said someone pried open a front window, rifled through drawers

and left a kitchen knife on a bed.

"We have no reason to think this was anything other than a burglary or a robbery involving an intruder," Parker said.

Taylor's funeral will be held

See TAYLOR, Page 10

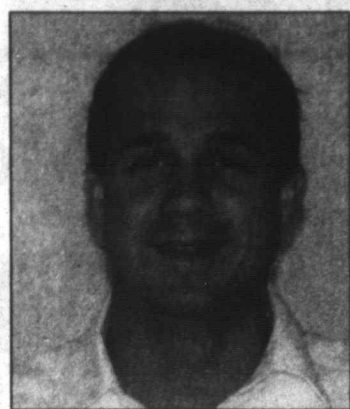
It's anyone's game as Thursday picks wrap up this week

Week 14

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| High School | |
| Frenship vs. Aledo | Snyder vs. Argyle |
| Sunray vs. McCamey | |
| College | |
| Virginia Tech at Boston College | Oklahoma at Missouri |
| Tennessee at LSU | Oregon St. at Oregon |
| Professional | |
| Green Bay at Dallas | Houston at Tennessee |
| Denver at Oakland | |
| Cumulative Totals | |
| Reagan | 81-48 |
| Smith | 82-47 |
| Hooper | 82-47 |
| Facio | 78-51 |
| Stokes | 83-46 |



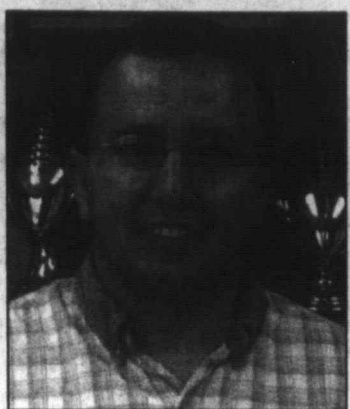
JORDAN REAGAN
Last week: 8-2
Aledo
Snyder
Sunray
Boston College
Missouri
LSU
Oregon
Green Bay
Tennessee
Denver



SEAN SMITH
Last week: 7-3
Frenship
Snyder
Sunray
Virginia Tech
Missouri
LSU
Oregon St.
Dallas
Tennessee
Denver



DONNY HOOPER
Last week: 8-2
Aledo
Snyder
McCamey
Virginia Tech
Oklahoma
LSU
Oregon
Dallas
Tennessee
Oakland



BINO FACIO
Last week: 6-4
Aledo
Snyder
McCamey
Virginia Tech
Missouri
LSU
Oregon
Dallas
Houston
Denver



SHANE STOKES
Last week: 7-3
Frenship
Snyder
McCamey
Virginia Tech
Oklahoma
LSU
Oregon
Dallas
Tennessee
Denver

Dream season brings OU's Lofton Big 12 top defender honor

NORMAN, Okla. (AP) — Curtis Lofton's first season as a starting linebacker at Oklahoma has been the kind of year dreams are made of, quite literally.

The junior middle linebacker has come up with one game-changing play after another throughout Big 12 play to get the Sooners (10-2, 6-2) into Saturday's conference championship game against top-ranked Missouri (11-1, 7-1).

His penchant for causing pivotal turnovers earned him recognition from a panel of media as The Associated Press' Big 12 defensive player of the year.

"The night before the game I just go home and in my bed, I'm sitting there dreaming and going over all the formations in my head and I envision myself picking off the ball

or making somebody fumble, just causing the big play," Lofton said.

"During the week I study film, and I put myself in a position to make big plays. So far, I've been doing that."

The Big 12 title game will bring Lofton and the unanimous Big 12 offensive player of the year selection, Missouri quarterback Chase Daniel, back together again. When they first met, Lofton returned a botched handoff from Daniel to Jeremy Maclin for a touchdown that helped Oklahoma pull away for a 41-31 victory in mid-October. He also had 18 tackles in the game, which came in the midst of a remarkable run for the junior middle linebacker.

A week earlier, he forced a fumble as Texas' Jamaal Charles was

inside the 5 and headed for a go-ahead touchdown. A week later, he tipped a late pass for an interception to seal a victory at Iowa State. Then he capped the regular season by causing a fumble to finish off a goal-line stand against Oklahoma State.

"The guy has just been amazing at causing turnovers and making plays. He's been the most productive linebacker we've ever had," Sooners coach Bob Stoops said.

That's heady praise at a school that has had two Butkus Award winners in Stoops' nine seasons. After Lofton's recognition, the Sooners have had five of the last eight defensive players of the year in the conference.

"We've had great tradition. Long, long before we got here, it's

a place that you always admired and respected and were jealous of because you know you can recruit the best that there is in the country," defensive coordinator Brent Venables said. "That's what we've been fortunate enough to do here. We've had a lot of great players."

"But as much as anything, a couple of the common traits that they have are the desire to be great, never being satisfied and obviously being talented and blessed. And Curtis obviously has those attributes."

Lofton is by far the Sooners' leading tackler with 132 stops, and he also has two interceptions, four forced fumbles and a fumble recovery.

"I kind of look at it like it's something I should do," Lofton

said. "It's not something that I shouldn't put myself in a position to do. I put myself in a position to make the play, so I've got to make the play to help my team out."

Prolific Texas Tech wide receiver Michael Crabtree, a freshman who leads the nation in receptions, is the offensive newcomer of the year. The defensive newcomer of the year is Kansas freshman defensive back Chris Harris, who helped the Jayhawks win their first 11 games and rise to No. 2.

That streak ended last week when Daniel came up with another brilliant performance: the junior was 40-for-49 for 361 yards and three touchdowns in a 36-28 victory that clinched the Big 12 North title.

Yao has 31 points, 13 rebounds in Rockets 100-94 win over Suns

PHOENIX (AP) — Yao Ming produced the points and rebounds. Steve Francis provided the spark.

Yao had 31 points and 13 rebounds, helping the Houston Rockets beat the Phoenix Suns 100-94 on Wednesday night for their third straight victory.

Yao was impressive throughout — shooting 12-for-19 from the floor on an assortment of shots, including turnaround, jump hooks and stuffs. He scored eight of the Rockets' last 13 points as Houston staved off a Phoenix comeback in the closing minutes.

Tracy McGrady added 18 points and Rafer Alston 15 for the Rockets, who have put together their winning streak after losing six in a

row.

"He was aggressive," McGrady said of Yao, who had only 12 points on 4-of-17 shooting and six rebounds in the Rockets' 115-105 loss to the Suns on Nov. 17 when Houston played without McGrady. "If he plays like that every night, we'll be a helluva team."

"When I didn't play, it was tough for Yao to get easy shots. They double-teamed him even when he didn't have the ball. Having me out there made things easier for him."

The seldom-used Francis didn't have huge numbers — nine points, three rebounds and seven assists — but his play off the bench gave the Rockets a big lift.

"I try to get myself ready

when I'm called upon," Francis, who had played in only three previous games, said after playing a season-high 27 minutes. "I still have a long way to go; I still don't have my rhythm and timing."

"Me and the coach (Rick Adelman) have been having conversations about me coming in and giving the team a spark."

He did that Wednesday night, including a block on an Amare Stoudemire jumper with 16.9 seconds remaining and Houston clinging to a 98-94 lead.

Steve Nash topped Phoenix with 29 points and six assists — ending his streak of at least 10 assists at eight games. Stoudemire scored 25 points for the Suns and Shawn Marion had 18.

Parker has 29 points in Spurs' 109-94 win over Washington

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Tony Parker knows that sometimes you have to wait your turn and bide your time.

Parker's first-half wait paid off for the San Antonio Spurs, who with the help of the finals MVP's 20 second-half points beat the Washington Wizards 109-94 Wednesday.

"I was trying to be patient in the first half," said Parker, who finished with 29 points and 11 assists. "In the second half I was trying to penetrate, be more aggressive."

Parker had nine points in the first half, but was key to the Spurs breaking open the game in the third quarter and sealing the win in the fourth.

"He's getting better and better at reading the situation and seeing what's given," said Spurs coach Gregg Popovich. "He did a great job scoring, but he also found people. He hit open people for great shots and that's what a point guard does."

Manu Ginobili added 19 points and Tim Duncan had 16 for the Spurs.

And while Parker was pushing up the score, San Antonio's star defender Bruce Bowen was making sure Washington's numbers didn't get too high.

Caron Butler and Antawn Jamison, who have stepped up for the Wizards since guard Gilbert Arenas went out last week for three months following knee sur-

gery, combined to go just 9-of-24 from the field for 28 points. Brendan Haywood scored a season-high 19 points for Washington.

"He's on a tear right now," Bowen said of Butler. "So the best way I think to try to stop those kind of guys is deny them the ball as much as possible."

The Wizards got within six points, 86-80, with 8 1/2 minutes to go in the fourth, but Parker's 10 fourth-quarter points were the difference for San Antonio, which led from midway through the second quarter.

Parker also had eight rebounds for the Spurs. Bruce Bowen had 12 points and Francisco Elson and Michael Finley each added 10.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, Nov. 30, 2007:
Approach your life differently this year. You have many aspirations and goals; make them realities. How you deal with different people could change dramatically. Take a stand and accept responsibility. Aim for more of what you want using meetings and networking skills. If you are single, you could meet the person of your dreams. Making this bond work will require you to be diligent. A friendship plays a role. If you are attached, if you focus on a common bond, the two of you will grow and evolve. Count on VIRGO.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have:
5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
*** Brainstorm in the morning; actualize in the p.m. Reality dawns. Like it or not, you might have to take some strong actions. Remember, you are an action sign. OK, now go off to conquer an issue or situation! Tonight: Still a force.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
*** You might be somewhat slow this morning, but your intention certainly is communicated by the end of the day. You act when you see red, to the dismay of a child, friend or cohort of some type. One fact is that you do stand up for what you believe. Tonight: Try playful.
GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
*** Step back and let others rock and roll. It is obvious that you might not have all the answers. You also might not really care either. You have gone through enough and might want to do a full

retreat. Tonight: Just for you.
CANCER (June 21-July 22)
*** Watch someone else spend rather than spend yourself. You will be much happier. In fact, nix much of what seems frivolous, and at the end of today, you might like what you see. Others venture toward you. Be open. Tonight: Hook up with your pals.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
*** Expenses might floor even you right now. How much of it comes from your own lifestyle and preference for the good life? If you decide you want to, you can and will reverse gears. You have much more power than you realize. Tonight: Play it calm.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
*** You feel more empowered as the day draws to a conclusion. You might not be able to back off your position or change your direction as fast as you would like. For once, the tried-and-true doesn't look like it's the way to go. Tonight: Smile away.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
*** Use the morning, when others hear you better and have much more to share. You find communication difficult at times. You want to take a stand. Mull over decisions in the afternoon, when you'll feel better. Tonight: Take a hint from Leo.
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
*** You might be more visible than you have been in the past. Realize how many people look to you for advice and direction. Honor your strong feelings. People might be tough to deal with, but it's worth the effort. Tonight: Start the weekend well.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

*** Though plans might flow in the early part of the day, you hit conflict upon conflict later in the afternoon. Claim your power and don't let someone push you. A negative moment or two might result, but in the long run, you are better off. Tonight: A must appearance.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
*** Work with one person rather than many. Suddenly you could get the results that you have wanted for a long time. Your instincts serve you well as you hop on the bandwagon and make the right choice. Think carefully. Tonight: As hard as it might be, take an overview.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
*** Others demand a lot and, at first, you might want to produce as much as you can. As the day becomes late and you seek out answers, you'll discover or experience some disappointment. Be willing to go with the flow. Tonight: Aim high.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
*** Let others make requests and give you answers. Sometimes you come on a bit too strong for certain people. Think in terms of success. Others seek you out, but you might not like their implicit demands. Tonight: Let go of any sense of control over a situation.

BORN TODAY
Singer Billy Idol (1955), actor Ben Stiller (1965), playwright, director David Mamet (1947)

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>.
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Taylor

Continued from Page 9

Monday at 11 a.m. at Pharmed Arena on the campus of Florida International University in Miami. Redskins owner Dan Snyder is making arrangements for the entire football organization to attend.

At Redskins Park on Wednesday, Taylor's family and teammates came together to privately share tears and memories. Taylor's father, Pedro Taylor, and girlfriend both addressed the team.

"Many of these guys were wondering, 'How in the world am I going to go out and do this on Sunday?'" said Brett Fuller, the team chaplain. "And when Mr. Taylor stood up and said go out and win these next five and make it to the playoffs,

we felt a surge in the room, that he almost gave us permission to play well."

Taylor's father didn't state the team should win in honor or memory of his son, but many players adopted that feeling nonetheless. The Redskins (5-6) are in contention for a playoff berth despite three straight losses.

"We all know that's something Sean would want for us," defensive end Andre Carter said. "You've got to keep on moving forward."

The team then began to attempt to focus on preparations for Sunday's home game against the Buffalo Bills. Players went to their game-planning meetings — which were shorter than normal — and later held a quieter-than-usual afternoon practice.

"Nothing was normal about today," line-

backer London Fletcher said. "We had the meetings, but it wasn't the normal type of meetings. Practice, it was practice, but it just wasn't the same type of feeling, so to speak. We tried to make it feel the same, but I found myself thinking about Sean and imagining him out on the football field playing free safety for us."

Taylor's locker remained untouched, but the Redskins made the uncomfortably necessary move of dropping him from the official roster as part of a series of personnel moves.

The NFL announced that every player league-wide will wear a No. 21 decal on his helmet at this weekend's games to honor Taylor. Redskins players will wear the decal for the remainder of the season.

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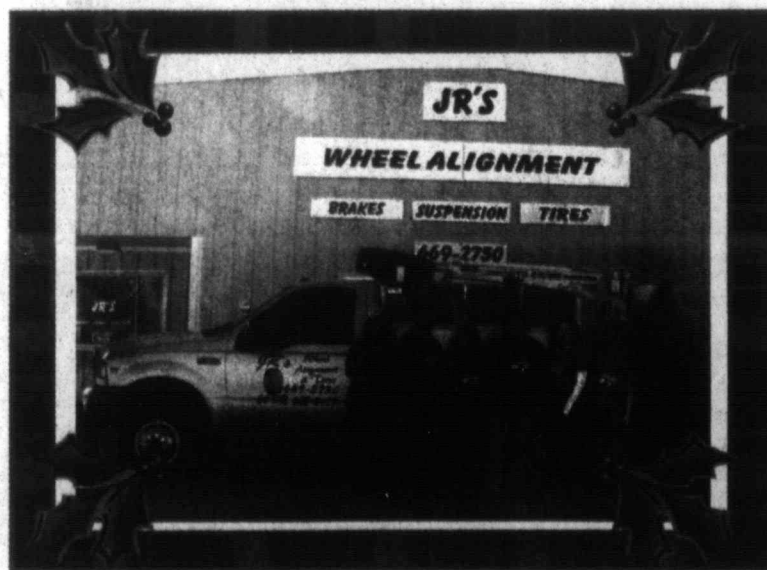


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