

Sanford Herald

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NEWS DIGEST

INSIDE

People

Poinsettias beloved symbol

Poinsettias, beloved symbol of the holiday season, make a brilliant show through the holidays.
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Local

Santa visits comission

Santa visited the Lake Mary City Comission recently, with some interesting gifts for officials.
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Florida

Consumer beware

That 'On sale' sign may not signify the best deal in the store.
See Page 2A

BRIEFS

Fire destroys church in Mims

MIMS — A fire of undetermined origin has destroyed a church in the Brevard County community of Mims, officials said today.
The fire at St. Mary's Missionary Baptist Church was discovered shortly before midnight Sunday.
When fire crews arrived three minutes after the 11:52 p.m. report, the church was fully involved, said Joan Heller, a spokeswoman for the Brevard County Sheriff's Office.
Firefighters battled the fire for an hour before bringing it under control, she said.
"It has not been determined whether it was connected to dozens of other church fires throughout the state," Ms. Heller said on a taped news line.
The statewide church arson task force, which has investigated more than 50 church fires since April 1990, has been called in to determine if there is any link between the Mims fire and other church blazes in Florida, Ms. Heller said.
The Brevard County Fire Department, the Brevard County Sheriff's Office and the State Fire Marshal's Office also are investigating the blaze.

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Consumer spending jumps

WASHINGTON — Consumer spending jumped 0.7 percent in November, the largest increase in six months, despite a 0.1 percent decline in incomes, the government said today.

The Commerce Department said personal consumption totaled \$3.95 trillion at a seasonally adjusted annual rate, up from \$3.93 trillion in October when spending fell a revised 0.1 percent. The department originally estimated October spending dropped 0.3 percent.

Jackpot set at \$30 million

TALLAHASSEE — Florida will close out its 1991 Lotto games with a jackpot worth an estimated \$30 million, officials said Sunday.

"A \$30 million jackpot will certainly add a little sparkle to this week's game," Lottery Secretary Marea Mann said in a Sunday release.

The jackpot jumped Saturday when the weekly drawing failed to produce a winner for a \$20 million grand prize that itself was swollen from an earlier rollover.

The numbers drawn Saturday were 2-18-19-35-37-46.

Those numbers produced 246 tickets with five winning numbers, and those tickets are worth \$5,343.50 each, there are 14,561 four-of-six winners worth \$132 each, and 296,134 three-of-six tickets worth \$6 each.

Compiled from staff and wire reports

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Warm and windy



Partly sunny with a high near 80. Wind southwest at 10 to 15 mph

For more weather, see Page 2A

Merchants to battle county

Widening road may destroy businesses

By J. MARK BARFIELD
Herald Staff Writer

LONGWOOD — Local County Road 427 businessmen and Longwood city officials are gearing up to battle Seminole County over plans to widen the busy road to six lanes, which may affect or even require the demolition of 13 commercial buildings containing 19 individual businesses.

"It's kind of ironic, with the penny sales tax, we help contribute the money to this project," said Lynn Breckon, whose husband Rixon owns Royal-Weld and Manufacturing Inc., 607 N. Highway 427.

If county commissioners approve a proposed six-lane road design in a meeting scheduled for Jan. 28, county road officials hope to begin purchasing the land needed for the road next summer. Construction on the \$11 million project is scheduled to begin after the summer of 1993 and be completed in 1995, said county project

manager Bob Brown.

Brown said two traffic studies showed there are often more cars on some portions of the 1.8-mile section than the road was designed to handle. Brown said county road design consultants Traffic Consulting Group found 17,600 to 24,100 vehicles now travel the roadway daily. The two-lane sections were designed to handle only 17,800 cars per day, according to county standards.

By 1995 when the new lanes are completed, traffic is expected to reach 19,400 to 27,700, close to the 32,320 trips-per-day capacity of a four-lane road. And 20 years after the widening is completed, the road will have an estimated 29,400 to 52,500 cars traveling on it daily, possibly exceeding the 48,520-trip capacity of a six-lane roadway.

Brown said TCG prepared three separate proposals for the additional land needed for the widening which would either take all of the land needed from the west side of the road, the east side of the road or equally from both sides. The proposals called for the potential need for up to 13 homes, 29 businesses and two historical structures.

After a meeting with residents, Brown said the

proposal was modified to the current one that could need up to nine homes, 19 businesses, but no historical structures. The cost of the construction was estimated at \$6.6 million and the land, \$4.4 million.

Breckon said businessmen agree the road needs to be widened, but not to six lanes.

"We're not opposed to four-laning, but to go to six lanes and take away businesses that have been here a long time, we're opposed to that," Breckon said.

Breckon said she will prepare a petition of business owners which will ask the county to widen the road to only four lanes. She said business owners have also hired an attorney to assure they receive a fair value for their property or business, if it's taken.

The final widening proposal has also raised the ire of Longwood city commissioners. City Planner Chris Nagle said the city questions the need for a six-lane road, when a four-lane road would probably meet the needs of motorists for up to 20 years. As many as 4,200 cars per day would be attracted to a six-lane CR 427 from U.S. Highway 17-92, Nagle said.

See Road, Page 5A

It's the season for caring, sharing



Irene Brown sorts food for needy.

Herald Photo by Tommy Vincent

Family moves from rickety trailer in time for Christmas

By DEBORAH YINQLING
Herald correspondent

SANFORD — The young parents of the three little children had a bigger problem than not having enough money to buy Christmas presents. The draft-ridden, dilapidated mobile home in which they were living was a potential death trap.

They were barely able to survive on the family's meager income. It was impossible to afford all of the family's necessities on the money they were receiving from the Aid for Families with Dependent Children benefits. Food stamps helped them buy some groceries.

Irene Brown, director of the Christian Sharing Center in Sanford, was afraid of what might happen if there was a fire some night. Perhaps the mother could help the children to escape, but her husband, who suffers from a degenerative back disease, would not be as fortunate.

Mrs. Brown doesn't have to worry about the family of five now. Because of a very special group of caring people, this Christmas will be merry for the children and their parents.

The family has been relocated from the rickety trailer into a house in Sanford. The Congregation Christian Church helped

See Sharing, Page 2A



Mother Bell Weaver supervises Christmas activities at Rescue Outreach Mission.

Herald Photo by Tommy Vincent

Mission is now home to ailing man

By DEBORAH YINQLING
Herald Correspondent

SANFORD — Dewey decided that Sanford would be his home. He left South Carolina to help his nephew start a business here. The business did not succeed but Dewey chose to stay.

He had a good job in sales then. "At that time I was comfortable," he recalls. But those times have become memories for Dewey now. He is currently under a doctor's care and is not able to work.

Things got even worse after his room was robbed and he was mugged while riding his bicycle. He has used the bicycle as a means of transportation since the bearings on his car burned out.

A past commander of the American Legion suggested that Dewey turn to the Rescue Mission for assistance. He has

See Mission, Page 5A

Localizing phone calls studied

By NICK PFEIFAU
Herald Staff Writer

LAKE MARY — Work continues toward localizing phone calls from North Seminole County to Orlando. The process will take many more months.

J. Craig Spearman, who heads the Lake Mary Business Advisory Board, gave a report on the progress of the move, during last Thursday's City Commission meeting. The concept has been under consideration for many

See Phone, Page 5A

17 first and second grade minority students to attend gifted classes

By VICKI DeSORMIER
Herald Staff Writer

SANFORD — A group of 17 first and second grade minority students will be given the opportunity to enhance their educational opportunities at Hamilton Elementary School.

Although more than 30 percent of students at Hamilton, Goldshams, Pine Crest and Midway elementary schools are minorities, none of them are enrolled in higher-level gifted classes.

Not one out of some 4,000 students at the four schools, said Jean Nathan, assistant principal at Hamilton.

Beginning in January, the students from the four schools will be given the opportunity to spend a week exploring new paths of learning, Nathan said and that the students have never had a moment of their opportunity

but that they are all looking forward to the possibility.

"They may be as excited as we are," he said. Nathan, wanting to solve both that problem and to find an answer to the district and state-wide problem of having too few minority students enrolled in higher-level courses in high school, decided the time has come to give youngsters a helping hand into learning more.

With the assistance of principal Carmen Gager, gifted teacher Jo McManis and gifted resource teacher Glenda Payne, Nathan created Enrichment Plus, a special program for minority first and second graders whose teachers feel they are potential candidates for the gifted program.

Gager came up with the name Enrichment Plus to reflect the concept that the program is designed to not only enhance the educational opportunities for the

See Students, Page 5A

FLORIDA BRIEFS



Cuomo thinks Bush can be beaten

PALM BEACH - New York Gov. Mario Cuomo said the Democratic presidential nomination should go to the candidate who has won the most delegates prior to the summer nominating convention.

Cuomo, who announced Friday that he will not be a candidate, reiterated his contention that President Bush can be beaten in 1992.

"I think just about all of them could (beat Bush) with the proper message," Cuomo told reporters Sunday. "I will select whomever is first out of the primaries and support that person on the grounds that you want to go into the convention unified."

Asked whether he would consider being drafted during the Democratic convention, he said: "You can't draft a president. The president ought to be the person who comes out in the primaries."

Cuomo's comments to reporters came prior to a speech to the American Society For Technion-Israel Institute of Technology.

Bizarre death probed

DAYTONA BEACH - A trampoline and a child's Christmas necklace combined in a bizarre accident that resulted in the apparent strangulation of a 3-year-old, police say.

A baby sitter found Jessica Lindsey hanging by her necklace from springs at the trampoline's edge, said Volusia County sheriff's deputies. Rescue crews were called but efforts to revive her failed, said the deputies.

The county medical examiner will do an autopsy this morning, but police said the Saturday morning death appears accidental.

Sheriff's investigator Bob Vail said Jessica was sent outside to play with another child, a 2-year-old girl, by the younger child's mother, Sabrina Lawrence.

Vail said the 2-year-old came inside a little while later and told her mother that Jessica was "stuck" on the trampoline. Ms. Lawrence rushed outside to find Jessica hanging by her red, rope-like necklace adorned with a Santa Claus medallion.

Judge rejects death recommendation

FORT LAUDERDALE - A judge who survived childhood cancer recalled his own life-threatening illness when imposing a life sentence on a liver-transplant recipient who killed her dying father.

Circuit Judge Charles Greene on Friday rejected the jury's 8-4 death recommendation and sentenced Katy Telemachos, 20, to life in prison.

The judge said he "could relate. I could understand," recalling the rare form of cancer that, when he was 6, killed most of its victims.

Telemachos was born with an incurable liver disease. At age 10, she was one of the first Americans to survive a liver transplant.

From Associated Press reports

Sharing

Continued from Page 1A

make it possible for them to move into their new home.

The mother of the two little girls and one boy is busy making their home more comfortable. She is a resourceful person.

In addition to fixing up her family's home, she also does volunteer work at the Christian Sharing Center.

Until about two years ago the family was able to survive, like other young couples, from one payday to the next.

Extreme back pain makes it impossible for the father to do anything. It has been very difficult for him and he fights the depression that accompanies his complete disability.

He is scheduled for surgery early in January. Although the procedure will not completely

cure him, it is hoped that it will improve his condition which was aggravated by an unsuccessful previous operation.

A kind benefactor has purchased a color television set to replace a small black and white set that had been loaned to the family.

Another Sanford neighbor donated money to the cause after seeing this self-made Santa shopping for toys.

"Others were saying that people were not as generous this year but I can't say that. People who have more are sharing more," Irene Brown says.

She tells of a woman who gave her an envelope containing one thousand dollars.

There are many more families that Irene Brown and her small group of dedicated volunteers hope to help.

"Helping others gets in your blood."

NEWS FROM THE REGION AND ACROSS THE STATE

'On sale' may not be best deal

Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE - An item touted as a last-minute, pre-Christmas bargain isn't necessarily the best deal. Attorney General Bob Butterworth warned holiday shoppers.

As retailers near the close of their holiday selling season, which for many marks success or failure for the year, Butterworth's office cautioned buyers to beware of the spreading sales.

The holidays aren't the only time shoppers must be careful, however.

National Retail Federation research indicates discount signs are now so prevalent

they outnumber regular prices.

In the first half of 1991, 85 percent of the men's clothing and 54 percent of women's clothing sold in U.S. stores carried a sale tag, according to the merchants' trade group. The percentages were higher at department stores and specialty stores.

The federation's senior vice president, Alice McCord, described a price-slashing merry-go-round in which merchants are forced to match competitors' price cuts or watch customers vanish.

"Most retailers would like to get off, but it has become very difficult to do so," McCord said.

Some products are virtually always on sale, she said. "I don't know anyone who buys mattresses or bedding at full price - or 14-karat jewelry."

Dillard Department Stores this year did away with storewide sales, said David Doub, president of the department store's Florida division in St. Petersburg.

But Dillard's isn't out of the sale game entirely, because too many competitors are still playing, Doub said. "A sale is like being on drugs. Once you start it, it's hard to stop."

In some states, regulators have stepped in to try to stem apparently false sales.

Helping hands

Seminole High School Air Force Jr. R.O.T.C. donated canned goods to the Salvation Army in Sanford recently to help needy families with food supplies during the holidays.



World Photos by Tommy Wincott

Manatee deaths rise despite fewer boats, new speed limits

Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE - More manatees have been killed by human causes this year than ever, despite more boating speed limits, spending of \$1,800 per manatee in preservation funds and even a slight decline in boats.

"We're on the right track, but it's going to take time. Remember, we're trying to overcome years of inertia," said Pat Rose, manatee coordinator for the state Department of Natural Resources.

Through last week, 168 of the endangered sea cows were found dead, 52 from collisions with

boats and propellers and 14 others from man-related causes such as being trapped in floodgates.

That eclipsed records set in 1989, when 50 manatees were found dead due to boat collisions and eight due to other man-related causes.

Only the absence of natural threats such as the devastating cold spell that killed at least 22 manatees last year has kept 1991 from being the deadliest year on record.

"I'm very disappointed by the new record," Rose said. "But I'm not really surprised, given what we've been up against."

In November 1989, when the

governor and Cabinet ordered the 13 counties with the most manatee deaths to adopt boating speed limits on sections of some waterways, it was expected to take about six months to get it done.

More than two years later, the governor and Cabinet have adopted rules for eight counties: Collier, Brevard, Martin, Palm Beach, Polk, Volusia and Flagler.

Only four - Martin, Palm Beach, Brevard and Volusia - have put up all their signs.

By this time next year, Rose said, the state hopes to have all 13 county plans in place and being enforced.

Lottery to take some machines

TALLAHASSEE - The Florida Lottery will start taking ticket machines away from businesses that fail to meet minimum sales goals and give them to locations with more potential.

Lottery officials said they want to phase out weak retailers and help them improve sales, so overall lottery sales improve.

"We will go in and help them sell more tickets," Mann said, "but if they don't, they will no longer be a retailer."

Courthouse holiday leave knocked down

Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE - Duval County Courthouse employees were ordered to either show up at work today or face losing vacation time or pay, the chief justice of the Florida Supreme Court ruled over the weekend.

Chief Justice Leander Shaw put an end to the decades-old practice of extra holiday leave for the state-paid workers.

Administrative County Judge John H. Skinner said Sunday.

Skinner said Shaw struck down a 4th Judicial Circuit administrative order allowing

workers - such as judicial assistants, secretaries and court administrators - time off from Dec. 19 through New Year's Day.

The time off has been given in Jacksonville for at least two decades, and workers began their leave as usual this year.

"It would have been one thing if it was, 'Well, in January we'll start this. We won't do it anymore after this,'" Skinner said. "I think it really stinks this week."

The nullified order, which Chief Circuit Judge John E. Santora Jr. had signed in the tradition of his predecessors, had

and have them make a choice: Show up at work, stay home and use vacation days, or - if no vacation days are left - lose the days from their paychecks.

Because judges already had cleared their schedules, most judicial assistants would probably be "drinking coffee" if they went to work today, Skinner said.

Skinner said the ruling cuts into what he said is one of the few perks that judges can offer judicial assistants to entice them to stay in the public sector.

"I think it really will affect our ability to hire people," he said.

LOTTERY MIAMI - Here are the winning numbers selected Sunday in the Florida Lottery: Cash 3 8-3-0 Play 4 7-9-3-1 Ken Rummel

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THE WEATHER LOCAL FORECAST Today: Partly sunny with a high near 80. Wind southwest at 10 to 15 mph. TUESDAY: Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers. High in the lower to mid 70s. Rain chance 30 percent.

NATIONAL TEMPS Table with columns for City, Hi, Lo, Prec, and Wind. Lists temperatures for various cities across the US.

Editorials/Opinions

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EDITORIALS

Pan Am's death

There are all sorts of good business explanations for the death of Pan American World Airways: its failure to adjust to the new competition produced by the airline deregulation that began in the late 1970s; the emergence of vigorous foreign carriers — many of them providing better service — on international flights; a series of ill-advised corporate decisions; the tragedy of the bombing of Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988; the double blow to international travel resulting from recession and the Persian Gulf War.

Yet the end of this airline is more than just a story of business success and failure, for in many ways Pan Am, which pioneered in international air travel, was symbol of the globalization of American power and influence.

Pan Am started commercial air service to Latin America in the late 1920s. It was Pan Am that first used large "flying boats," the Clippers, to make long-distance trips over water. It was Pan Am that launched the first scheduled trans-Pacific service (1935), the first scheduled trans-Atlantic service (1939), and the first regular around-the-world air service (1947). Pan Am was the first airline to fly commercial jets and was a major force in enabling Boeing to make a success of the 747 jumbojet.

Wherever Americans went during the great period of American power after World War II — South America, the Far East, the Middle East — Pan Am was like the flag; a U.S. outpost and a casual reminder of which nation dominated the world.

Most Americans traveling abroad in the 1950s and '60s would no more have thought of flying a foreign airline than they would have thought of buying a Japanese car. In the '50s, when someone in London or New York said they flew Flight 1 or Flight 2, there was no doubt which airline they were talking about.

U.S. air service overseas has hardly declined. Every major U.S. carrier — American, United, Delta, Northwest — is now heavily engaged in international service. Yet the demise of Pan Am nonetheless reflects the end of the age when America could casually assume its dominance.

To Americans in East Berlin or Rio or Moscow, Pan Am had been an expression of that dominance. Now both the airline and the assumption are gone.

Women's pay gap

Although economic hard times threaten all Americans, women are particularly vulnerable. A surge of recent studies shows that equality in the workplace remains an elusive goal. Even when they have more experience and more education, women are paid less.

An Associated Press analysis of census figures shows that women with four years of college earn roughly the same salary as men with only a high school diploma. In an ongoing national study of 22,652 members of the high school class of 1972, women made better grades and graduated faster from college than men, but were paid significantly less after working about eight years. That study, conducted by the U.S. Department of Education, found that women achieved pay equality in only seven of 33 major occupations.

And in a survey of campus salaries, the first in a decade, women and minority professors at the University of California, Berkeley, also were found to make significantly less money than their white male counterparts, and white men won promotions more readily than women and minorities. This was true even when fields of scholarship and seniority were taken into account.

While it's true that there are more opportunities for women in traditional men's jobs, many women remain segregated in lower-paying, female-dominated service and clerical occupations. And while the pay gap between men and women has shrunk somewhat — in 1980, women's weekly earnings stood at 62 percent of men's earnings; in 1991, they had risen to 72 percent — most recently the "progress" has been the result of a drop in real wages for men with just a high school education, rather than an increase in women's pay.

Even when they break into law, business, medicine and other high-paying professions, women still tend to cluster at the lower-paid end, are relegated to less prestigious specialties or hit the glass ceiling.

All this is worrisome, not just for women but also for the nation. Two-thirds of all women with children will spend at least part of their lifetimes as single mothers. Increasingly, women are the family breadwinners. They need the money and the health benefits as much as their male colleagues.

SARAH OVERSTREET

Hostage's freedom elicits reflection

In listening to an interview with newly released hostage Thomas Sutherland, I was struck by this observation: Of all the torture, isolation and deprivation Sutherland endured in his 6 1/2 years in captivity, the thing he found most amazing was that he could ever reach a point in his life where he had absolutely nothing to do for 24 hours.

Before his capture, there had been not enough hours in the day to do all the exciting things life offered, and even the time needed to sleep was an imposition.

Sutherland's sentiments sure put my life into clearer perspective. I often feel the way he did before he was taken hostage, and I don't know anyone with a job, a family or especially both who doesn't. It's gotten to the point of ridiculousness with my friends and me — we promise to call, to keep in touch, to get together for lunch, we make plans and then end up canceling more often than not. A weekend goes by at breakneck speed with literally no spare 15 minutes to make a long-distance call.

Some people (not me, it's the one last practice I withhold from the technology gods) use their answering machines to screen calls: not so much out of rudeness, but from the sheer triage of

having to parcel out precious minutes.

Sutherland's remarks also reminded me of a recent Elaine Vets column in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch: A friend of hers decided not to go to a relative's traditional Christmas celebration because he always had such an awful time in the past. He decided that having just turned 40, he has only a finite number — about 30, if statistics are correct — of Christmases left. As precious as they are now, he argued, how could his wife ask him to spend one of them having a gruesome time? She didn't.

I think what he said makes perfect sense and more of us should follow his lead. With the impossible schedule of things we

have to do as we try to keep from losing our jobs or aborting our families, what are we doing that we shouldn't be? Spending time with people who don't enrich us in any way, out of a sense of obligation?

The work world has changed dramatically in the last 20 years, but our social and cultural worlds have not altered all that much. The changing workplace has been extremely stressful on women, who have careers their mothers didn't but who are expected to continue shouldering many of the non-career responsibilities their mothers did. The changes are stressful to men, too, and I think largely that both sexes have refused to face the fact that we can't do everything socially and culturally that we used to do, even if holding on to some traditions makes us feel safe while so many other things are changing.

As the new year approaches and I take stock of how last year went and how I'd like the next one to go, I think my largest stumbling block is probably my unwillingness to face the fact that I cannot hang on to everything I'd like to and survive.

As it happens, I just turned 40. Only 30 more New Year's Evens?



The time needed to sleep was an imposition.

SCARIFR THAN EVER!

The Atom's Family

OF PARAMOUNT CONCERN presents NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION with BRAZIL, ARGENTINA, IRAN, IRAQ, N. KOREA, TAIWAN, LIBYA, S. AFRICA, INDIA, PAKISTAN, ISRAEL, USSR, CHINA. THE ATOM'S FAMILY CO-STARRING USA, ENGLAND, FRANCE. PRODUCING A THREAT TO THE WORLD.

HODDING CARTER

Will the future pass U.S. by?

The Ghost of Christmas Past stands at the table and proclaims in a very loud voice, "Things have really changed."

The Ghost of Christmas Present elbows him aside and impatiently asks, "What have you done for me lately?" No one knows who he is asking, and so no one replies.

The Ghost of Christmas Future stumbles into the room, moaning and crying aloud, "Repent, repent, for the end is at hand." He mournfully refuses to say whether he means the end of the bad old days, the good old days or just the year 1991.

Which is the way it is as Christmas 1991 gives way to the New Year of 1992. It has been an incredible journey over the past 12 months, but in the classic words of the vaudeville routine, we're constantly reminded that we "ain't seen nothin' yet."

Take the old year first. It began with George Bush, sitting on top of fast-climbing popularity, making final declarations about the shape and timing of Desert Storm. The economy was in trouble, but just about everyone was optimistic that things would turn up by late summer or fall. With the speedy victory against Iraq, confidence and pride soared. The nation's military machine seemed invincible, the United Nations appeared to be working at last and the American century, far from coming to a close, gave promise of enduring into the third millennium.

The main reason for optimism, however, was that the Soviet Union was disintegrating before our eyes. The Cold War was over. Nationalism had triumphed over ideology. The hard facts of economic failure had crashed down on communism's Potemkin village, leaving rubble in their wake.

But 1991 was not in the mood for straight-line projections, or for victory parades trumpeting victory parades. Saddam Hussein's refusal to leave the stage became a symbol of the past's stubborn legacy. Yugoslavia became an unavoidable reminder that while nationalism might be a political fact of nature, it was more often akin to an earthquake than a spring rain. The economy drew a deep breath, looked around, and went back into the tank.

"Be careful what you ask for, because you might get it," our parents used to warn us, and by the middle of December, that admonition blanketed most of the former Soviet Union. Gorbachev had weathered the inevitable coup attempt in August, but the agents of his physical deliverance turned out to be his political executioners. For the huge land mass that was once the Soviet Union, 1991 was less the end of history than history's reassertion of itself. Given its pre-communist past, that was a less inviting prospect than many American triumphalists appeared to believe.

The 50th anniversary of Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7 provided a vivid reminder of history's

fondness for ironic jokes. Japan, brought down by the hubris that sparked its daring attack on the U.S. Pacific fleet in Hawaii, has emerged like the Phoenix from the ashes of defeat. It does not yet bestride the world, but it is hard to find any place in the world without its footprints. At year's end, the Japanese challenge had come to rest at the center of American policy, domestic as well as foreign.

No one needs the pollsters to tell him that our national mood is sour and confused. The simplest explanation is the economy, which mulishly refuses to respond to rhetoric and lower interest rates. A larger explanation lies in the failure of the political process to provide leadership that can rally the people and force consensus on Washington's divided government. Yet another can be found in the metaphor of the hangover, inevitable after the moral and economic binge of the 1980s.

The next 11 months of presidential campaigning could provide the antidote — or they could contribute even further to the national malaise. The campaign's early days have not been reassuring, through the president's belated admission that bad times afflict millions of Americans was a welcome hint of a new realism at his end of Pennsylvania Avenue. The Democratic candidates, announced and potential, have not differentiated themselves enough to inspire confidence or raise fears, so the shape of eventual Democratic challenge remains an enigma.

Though the hopes for good times unlimited have been dashed, it would be a mistake to dwell only on the negative or troubling. The fact is that democracy continues its march around the globe, tenuous though it may be in some of its new homes.

Finally, it can be said with quiet confidence that America's most pressing national concerns are within our own capacity to solve. This remains the world's largest economy and most successful political system. At the heart of the mystery of the new year, 1992, is the answer to a simple question: Will America finally summon the will to match its resources to its needs? If the answer is yes, the Ghost of Christmas Present next December is going to be a much happier wraith.



It has been an incredible journey over the past 12 months.

JACK ANDERSON

Dairy farmers get milked by officials

WASHINGTON — American dairy farmers willingly marched their cattle to the slaughterhouses in 1986 when the federal government offered to pay them to get out of the milk business. It was cheaper for Uncle Sam to take the cows out of production than to continue to subsidize the milk glut.

But for a few farmers who were dazzled by the cash, the backlash from the Dairy Termination Program has become the Terminator II.

In all, the program paid farmers \$1.5 billion to slaughter or export 1,838,979 cows. The program was in part responsible for a drop in dairy support payments by the government from \$2 billion a year before the farmers were bought out, to \$500 million last year.

All the farmers had to do was take the money and promise that the land on which those cows had been kept would not be used for dairy production for the next five years. Some of those farmers have learned how hard it is to keep that promise.



Some of those farmers have learned how hard it is to keep that promise.

Wolf Jueckoff of New York got \$50,000 to slaughter his herd of 50 cows, and he agreed not to make available to other dairy farmers any farm he owned or rented. What he didn't anticipate is that the house on the land he rented would burn to the ground. Jueckoff had sublet the house to tenants, and the fire cost him the rental income. He could not keep up with his own lease payments to the landowner. He defaulted on the land lease, and the landlord rented the property to someone else — a dairy farmer.

Without doing anything himself, Jueckoff had broken his deal with the federal government. The land the government paid him to keep out of dairy production was once again the home to a herd of cows. The Agriculture Department demanded a \$40,000 refund from Jueckoff, including payment for the years when he kept his end of the bargain.

Pieter Sybrandy of Washington state is in debt to the Agriculture Department \$250,000 because he took the government's money and then defaulted on a property lease. The landlord re-rented the property to a dairy farmer. Sybrandy, who had to declare bankruptcy, appealed to federal district court and the judge ruled in his favor saying that the government's decision was "patently absurd." But the U.S. Court of Appeals reversed the lower court, deferring to the authority of the Agriculture Department.

Ralph Martelle of Vermont made \$29,000 when he disposed of his herd of 26 cows. But when the Agriculture Department sent someone around to make a spot check of his barn to make sure it was empty, they found 20 cows standing around. The dry cows — not being used in milk production at that time — belonged to Martelle's son-in-law, who, unbeknownst to Martelle, was keeping them there temporarily. On the advice of a local agriculture official, the son-in-law slaughtered 20 of his own cows, thinking that the federal government would be satisfied. But it was bad advice. Martelle was fined \$279,000 anyway for breaking his deal.

The appeals system is stacked against these farmers. Their first court is a county committee for the federal Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service. From there, the farmer appeals to a state ASCS committee and then to the federal ASCS. The only hitch is that the local and state committees have no authority to grant relief to a farmer due to extenuating circumstances, and the federal board is not obliged to look at the case unless the farmer brings new information that wasn't considered by the local boards. It's a Catch-22 that leaves the farmers knee deep in debt.

Lake Mary

IN BRIEF

Celebrate Christmas

As Christmas day draws near, area churches celebrate the birth of our savior with heartfelt prayer and other activities of the season.

Mark your calendars and join in the celebration with the following events:

• St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 700 Rinehart Road, Lake Mary, invite all to come celebrate its Christmas Eve Services on Tuesday. Family service begins at 7 p.m. with the Children's Choir singing Christmas carols and a service of Holy Communion. The traditional Christmas Eve Midnight Mass will begin at 10:30 p.m. The adult choir will sing at this service, which will include Father Beverly L. Barge's Christmas message.

• Make plans to come "share the season" with friends and neighbors this Sunday at 6 p.m. at the Lake Mary Community Center on Country Club Road. The event will include the contemporary/musical/drama "The Miracle of Christmas Eve." This Christmas event is presented by SonLife Community Church.

• First Baptist Church Markham Woods, 5400 Markham Woods Road, will be having a Christmas Carol Sing in the sanctuary of the church on Sunday at 7 p.m. Then on Christmas Eve, there will be a Candlelight Lord's Supper Service, also in sanctuary.

Seniors to meet for activities

LAKE MARY — The Lake Mary Seniors meet every Tuesday for activities at the old city hall, North Country Club Road.

On Tuesdays, the center offers the following:

- 9 a.m., the center opens
- 9:15, gentle exercise
- 10 a.m., lap quilting. Sewing group for R.S.V.P. projects and game time.

- Noon, bring your own lunch.
- 1 p.m., art group and card playing
- 4 p.m., the center closes.

The last Tuesday of each month, the following is available:

- 9 a.m., free blood sugar and pressure checks.
- 10:30 a.m., a program with guest speakers, to be announced.

- Noon, lunch, everyone brings finger foods to share.
- 1 p.m., regular classes.

On Fridays, the center offers:

- 10:30 a.m., line dancing.
- Noon, bridge, pinocle, dominoes and puzzles.

Details, call 323-4938.

Club takes the lead

L.E.A.D. to Success, a newly formed club to share business connections, will meet 7:30 a.m. Wednesday at Pebble Creek Apartments clubhouse, 780 Creekwater Terrace, Lake Mary. One of the focal points of the meeting is to exchange business cards. Only one member of a particular type of business or profession is allowed to join.

For more information, contact Marcia Kurtz 646-0609.

Rotary meets early

Rotary Club of Lake Mary meets Thursday mornings, 8 to 9 a.m. at the Timacuan Country Club, on Rinehart Road. Contact Roger Campbell, president, at 323-1273.

Optimists gather every week

Lake Mary Optimist Club meets every Tuesday, 7 p.m., at Sorrento Cafe, Country Club Rd. Contact Kevin Greene at 322-8787.

Women meet

Lake Mary Woman's Club meets the fourth Wednesday of each month. Contact Paulette Pedigo at 323-1969.

Historical Commission gathers

The Lake Mary Historical Commission meets Mondays at Old City Hall. Contact Mary Wolff at 321-5666 for more information.

Be a volunteer firefighter

The Volunteer Fire Association in Lake Mary meets at 7 p.m. at the Fire Hall on the second Tuesday of each month. Contact Bob Stoddard, fire chief, at 323-7029 for more information.

Weight Watchers meet on Thursdays

A local chapter of Weight Watchers meets at the Lake Mary Community Building every Thursday from 4:45 to 6:45 p.m.

Youth Center open on Friday nights

Every Friday night, the Lake Mary Community Building is transformed in a Youth Center from 7-11 p.m. Area youth are welcome to participate in the fun.

Sunbelt Daylily Club to meet

Sunbelt Daylily Club meets the first Sunday of the month at 2 p.m. through April at the Old City Hall, Highway 15A near Lake Mary Boulevard, Lake Mary.

The club educates members on daylily growing through slide shows, guest speakers and trips to daylily gardens. A May flower show and plant sale is planned. There are no club dues. Call 886-3196 for more information.

Let us know what's going on

The Sanford Herald welcomes announcements about social activities and club news for publication in the Lake Mary pages each Monday. There is no charge.

1. All items should be typed or written legibly and include the name of a person who can be contacted and a daytime phone number.
2. The deadline is 11 a.m. Thursday before publication.

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Lake Mary Centre (next to Albertsons) 333-3203

Ho ho ho...

Santa takes over Lake Mary. Commission meeting to poke fun

By BOB PFEIFFER
Herald Staff Writer

LAKE MARY — A man identifying himself as S. Claus, of the North Pole, barged into the Lake Mary City Commission meeting Thursday night. The surprise guest handed out gifts to the Commissioners and gave everyone thoughts to ponder.

Although he was not a registered voter in Seminole County, nor an official resident of the City, Mayor Randy Morris allowed Claus to use the usual allotted time in which to address the Commission during the "public participation" period.

The jolly old man poked fun at not only the Commission, but various city projects and recent decisions they had made.

"I had a difficult time getting here," he commented. "Rudolph kept trying to land on unpaved streets. (The city has 12 miles of unpaved streets.)"

He continued "Then when we were flying near Lake Mary Boulevard, we almost crashed when we struck a power line." (The Commission has gone through almost a year of discussion for and against the power line burial on the boulevard.)

"But we finally landed," Santa said, "on the road out here. But we almost hit a bulldozer, and ended up in a dirt pile." (Again referring to Lake Mary Boulevard, where widening and construction has been underway for many months.)

He concluded, "Right now, Rudolph is waiting for me in the pond across the street." (The retention pond came in for serious concern in mid year when it was found to contain a heavy concentration of coliform.)

Although Commissioners and members of the audience on hand Thursday night had fought on opposing sides of the various projects, the spirit of Christmas brought agreeable laughter from one and all.

Santa also poked fun at the Commission through his selection of gifts. After giving each city official a Santa cap to wear, he emptied his bag of gifts.

To Commissioner George Duryea, he presented a large placard that was worded, "YES". Duryea has been staunch in voting against



The Commission took the fun all in stride.

various proposals where he believed spending was to excess.

To Commissioner A.R. "Doc" Jore, the newest member of the Commission, Santa said, "I'm making you the honorary editor of the local newspaper."

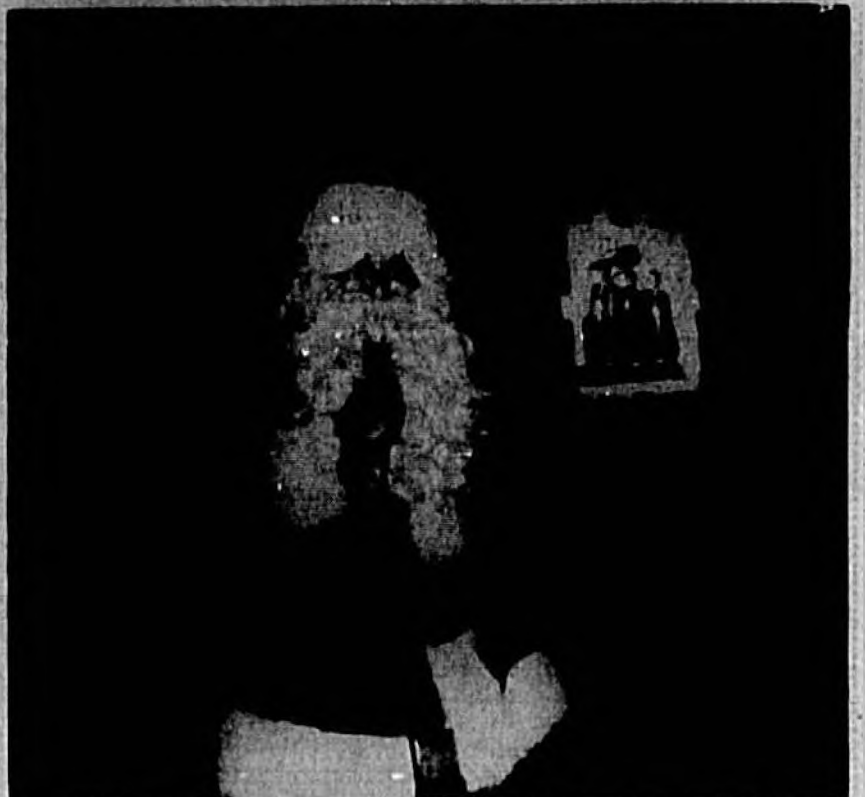
Commissioner David Meador received a bag of tea leaves. "To help you predict the future," Santa said. He was also given a year's supply of coupons to have his palm read.

Commissioner Paul Tremel was not on hand for the meeting. "He's the only one who didn't ask for anything this year," Santa said. "He told me he already gets everything he wants from the Commission."

City Attorney Ned Julian received two gifts. "A 2-way magnifying glass so you can look into both directions for your decisions, and a quarter, to flip in case you need help in making a decision."

With many decisions on high-cost items in recent months being split by 3 to 2 votes, City Manager John Litton was given, as Santa said, "A coupon, good for a 5 to 0 vote, to be used whenever you need it."

Mayor Randy Morris was the recipient of the largest number of teases during the evening. Santa said, "For the Mayor, a blank check he can use for the city's major spending projects." Santa added, "I'll make it payable to Florida Power if you



Santa presented members of the press a Lake Mary Commission dart board. With Mayor Randy Morris as the bulls-eye.

like," (again referring to the cost question relating to the burial of power lines on the Boulevard.)

After a great deal of fun, Santa left the commission chambers to return to his sleigh, and Rudolph, who was hopefully still in good condition. The appearance disrupted an extremely lengthy City Commission agenda, and delayed it for over a

half hour, but city officials and the persons in the audience were given 30 minutes without problems, and without opposition. All enjoyed the spirit of Christmas together.

Shortly after Santa left the room, Lake Mary Parks Director John Holland arrived at the meeting. "I'm sorry," he said. "I was slightly delayed."



Happy homemakers

Members of the Lake Mary Homemaker Club, from left to right, Evelyn Rice, Edith Pottruff, Laurette Williams and Lillian Allison, all of Lake Mary, gathered recently at Susie Davis' home for their annual Christmas party. Guests were served holiday treats and special gifts were exchanged among members.

Herald Photo by Lucy Domen

Bitchfield

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BUGSY 1:00 4:00 7:30 10:15	Hook 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:15
THE LAST 1:15 3:30 6:45 9:00 10:30	The 1:00 3:45 6:15 8:15 10:30
all i want for 1:00 3:30 6:30	CAPE FEAR 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:30
An American in Paris 1:15 3:15 6:15 7:30 9:15	The Butcher's 7:00 10:15 Wife
MY GIRL 2:00 4:00 7:30 9:45	Beauty and the 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00 Beast

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Sports B

INSIDE:
 People, Page 3B
 Classified, Page 4B
 Comics, Page 6B

IN BRIEF

AROUND THE STATE

Magic streak at 10

ORLANDO — Kenny Smith scored 28 points, leading the Houston Rockets over Orlando 99-94 Sunday and extending the Magic's losing streak to 10 games.

The 10-game skid is the longest in the NBA this season. Orlando also has lost 15 of its last 16 and is 0-10 against the Western Conference.

Hakeem Olajuwon finished with 17 points, 14 rebounds and eight blocked shots for Houston.

Scott Skiles led the Magic with 21 points, 18 in the fourth quarter.

Dolphins miss playoffs

MIAMI — Appropriately, a journeyman kicker decided the matchup of mediocrity for the NFL's final playoff spot.

Raul Allegre, signed Tuesday by the New York Jets to replace the injured Pat Leahy, kicked a 44-yard field goal to force overtime and hit a 30-yarder in sudden death Sunday for a 23-20 victory over the Miami Dolphins.

The Jets will play at Houston or Denver in an AFC wild-card game next weekend. It will be their first playoff appearance since 1986.

New York and Miami finished 8-8. The Jets earned the playoff berth after beating Miami twice. The second came in as dramatic fashion as possible, with both teams holding late leads.

The loss meant a bitter finish for the Dolphins, who had a chance to clinch the playoff berth a week ago but blew a 13-point fourth-quarter lead at San Diego.

Tampa Bay not the worst

TAMPA — Indianapolis definitely is worse than Tampa Bay, and that's not easy.

The Buccaneers (3-13) won the battle of the worst teams in the NFL, overcoming a mistake-filled first half Sunday for a 17-3 victory over the Colts (1-15) that ended a five-game losing streak.

The teams lived up to the negative hype by combining for seven turnovers and numerous other bad plays before just 28,043 in Tampa Stadium.

Indianapolis already was assured of the top selection in next year's draft but could have strengthened their draft options by beating Tampa Bay.

The Colts have the Bucs' No. 1 in 1992 because of last year's Chris Chandler trade and would have earned the right to pick first and second with a victory. Now, the extra pick will be as low as No. 5.

AROUND THE WORLD

Couples wins final event

MONTEGO BAY, Jamaica — The \$525,000 prize he won was great, Fred Couples said.

A 5-under-par 66 in his last round of the season — was very nice, too.

But the best thing about his run-away, four-shot triumph in the rich, new World Championship, he said, was the quality of the opposition.

"There's only 26 guys here," Couples said, "but they're the best in the world, and that makes it really special."

Bernhard Langer took second in this event with a closing round of par-71 and a 285 total.

Paul Azinger had second in his pocket until he made double-bogey from waist-high rough on the 16th hole and Langer, in the same twosome, birdied the hole.

Australians Greg Norman and Craig Parry tied for fourth at 287.

Seve Ballesteros of Spain, Nick Faldo of England and American Tom Purtzer were next at 289.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Girls' Soccer

- Burger King Classic: at Lake Mary High School
- Seventh Place Game, Edgewater vs. Tampa-Berkley Prep, 1:30 p.m.;
- Fifth Place Game, Tallahassee-Lincoln vs. Lake Brantley, 4 p.m.;
- Third Place Game, Bishop Moore vs. Winter Park, 6 p.m.;
- Championship Game, Lyman vs. Ft. Lauderdale-St. Thomas Aquinas, 8 p.m.

BEST BETS ON TV

BASKETBALL
 □ 7:30 p.m. — WKCF 18, NBA, Orlando Magic at Miami Heat. (L)

FOOTBALL
 □ 9 p.m. — WFTV 9, NFL, Chicago Bears at San Francisco 49ers. (L)

Complete Listings on Page 2B

WHILE THEY LAST

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Can 'Hounds defend title?

Lyman in Burger King finals against St. Thomas Raiders

By ROBBIE STOCK
 Herald Correspondent

LAKE MARY — When Ft. Lauderdale-St. Thomas Aquinas takes on Lyman in tonight's Burger King Classic girls' soccer tournament championship contest, the Raiders will be looking to become the first non-Seminole County school to win the tournament title.

In fact, if St. Thomas wins, they will be just the third team to win the championship in the nine-year tourney. The Greyhounds won it in 1983-86 and last year. Lake Brantley captured the title from 1987 through 1989.

But in order to break the Seminole County stranglehold, the Vikings must defeat top-ranked Lyman, who

are undefeated this season and won the Class 4A title last season.

Not only that, but the Greyhounds have played well for the entire tournament, including a 3-0 domination of Bishop Moore in the semifinals where it displayed a tough, physical defense and a lightning-quick offense.

"We have to come out and play our game," said Lyman head coach Gary Barnett. "We like to keep the ball under control and on the ground most of the time."

In their win over the Hornets, Lyman displayed this type of strategy much of the game, keeping Bishop Moore pinned in its own end and letting the scorers do their job.

And the offense has lit up the scoreboard in the tournament,

scoring 15 goals in three games, including nine in their opening contest against St. Augustine-Nease.

Freshman Danya Harris has been a catalyst for Lyman, providing three goals and six assists. Her feeds, especially on corner kicks, have helped both Adriane and Sara Kane connect for three goals each. Danielle Garrett has contributed two goals and three assists.

In last year's final against Bishop Moore, Sara Kane was the hero, knocking in the winning goal with 6:52 remaining. Her score came within a minute after Adriane Kane was carried off the field on a stretcher.

"Sara Kane is becoming a phenomenal player," Barnett said. "Her work ethic and leadership are coming along. And she's not just an individual, she's a team player."

Defensively, the Greyhounds have not let up a goal in the tournament,

thanks to an aggressive defense featuring Jessica Martinson, Deborah Larsen, Anne Brewer, and Cindy Kirkconnell. Starting goalie Melondy Hillman sprained an ankle in the win over Bishop Moore and backup Cheryl Roberts stopped all five Hornet shots. Barnett said Hillman could see action in today's game.

"I have a lot of confidence in Cheryl Roberts," Barnett said.

Lyman's sixth Burger King Classic title will not come easily, however. St. Thomas, the first non-Central Florida team to appear in the finals, have won their three games by a combined score of 15-0. After scoring 10 goals on Eau Gallie in just under 58 minutes, they knocked off Lake Brantley 3-0 and advanced to the finals with a 2-0 win over Winter Park.

The Raiders are paced by their gritty sophomore, Heidi Foster, who

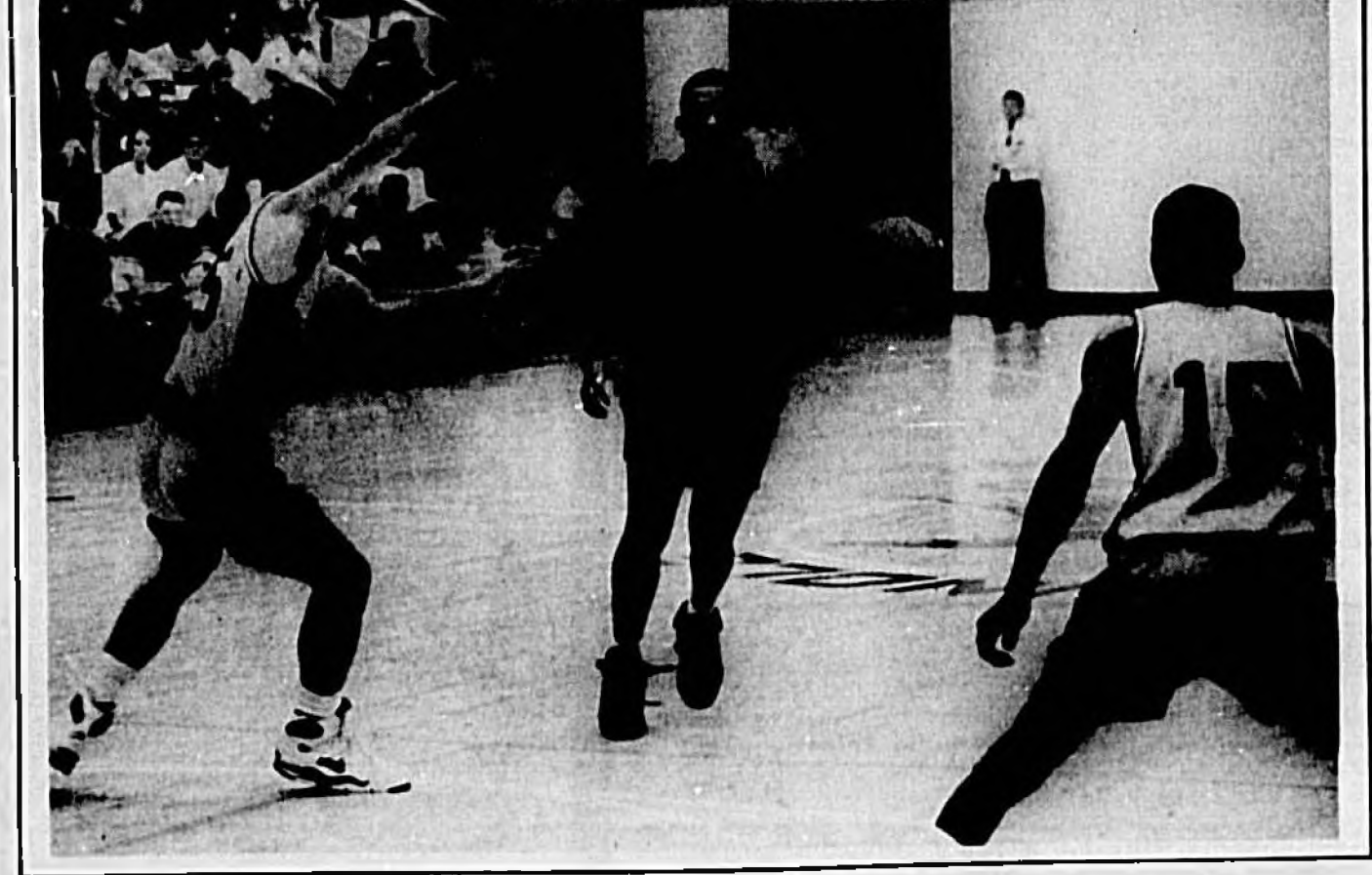
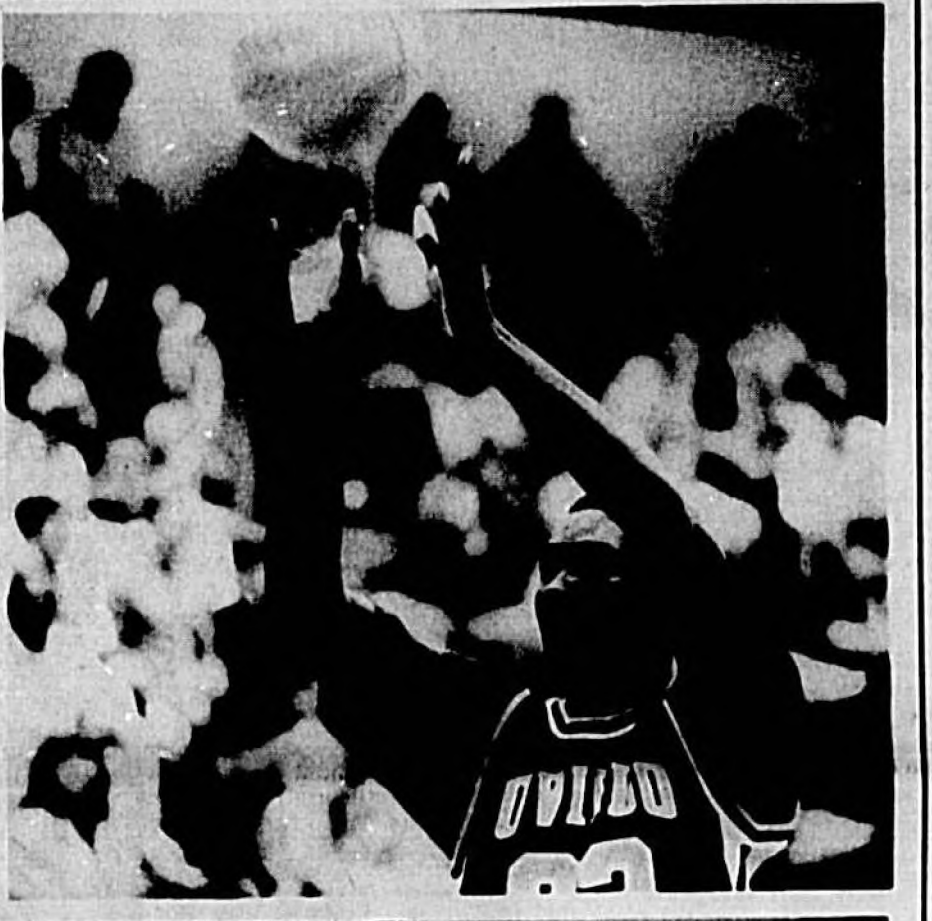
□ See Soccer, Page 2B

DOUBLE TAKES

The secret's out

Any chance that the Oviedo High School boys' basketball team had of sneaking up on anyone this year was ruined Saturday when the Lions completed their run through the Central Florida Classic with a 48-47 win over Spruce Creek in the championship game. Simon Harper (right) averaged 14.5 points per game during the tournament for 10-0 Oviedo. Senior point guard Bernard Green (No. 24, below) led the Lions during the Classic with a 15.3 point-per-game average.

Herald Photos by Tommy Vincent



County shows well in Classic

By BILL KERNS
 Herald Correspondent

SANFORD — Championship teams seldom depend on a single player.

With this in mind, the entire Oviedo Lions boys varsity basketball team received the Most Valuable Player award Saturday night after the Lions won the Central Florida Classic Basketball Tournament at Seminole Community College.

"It would have been very hard to pick an MVP," Oviedo head coach Ed Bolton said Saturday night after his team's victory over Spruce Creek. "Before tonight I thought two guys should be the MVP. But tonight another two players came through. Then again, the bench also played well. I think they made the right choice."

A look at the scoring in the Lions' four games bears out the fact that the state's ninth-ranked 4A team's title was definitely a team effort.

Seniors Bernard Green (15.3) and Simon Harper (14.5) led the team in scoring, but junior forwards Devon Green (13.8) and Randy Wright (11.0) were right behind.

The fifth starter, junior Leon Lowman, only averaged 7.5 points per game but he played tremendous defense, rebounded well and was extremely unselfish on offense, giving the ball up so others could score. And senior's Ken Kroog and Ian Forrest also played important rolls off the bench.

Oviedo, off to its best start in at least 14 years with a 10-0 record, won four straight games in the tournament defeating Bishop Moore 78-73 Wednesday night, Titusville-Astronaut 66-52 Thursday night, county rival Lake Mary 79-69 in Friday's semifinals and Spruce Creek 48-47 Saturday night in the championship game.

"It's been an excellent tournament," said Bolton. "It's been fun. We've played a lot of good teams, and every team has been out to win. This is what high school sports are all about — having fun."

Seminole County also boasted two of the top forwards of the tournament.

□ See Basketball, Page 2B

Words fail when you come face-to-face with death

What do you say about someone who died but wasn't supposed to? Or about someone who didn't die but very easily could have?

There are no words to describe the sudden grief of the Bird family after the unexpected death of Erik early Thursday morning of what doctors describe as "highly invasive brain cancer."

Conversely, there's no way to voice the relief of the families of Billy Jones and Beverly Snider after they were pulled from a burning wreck by friends Shea Scott and Dustin Minton last Tuesday night.

Independently, these events would be cause for reflection. That they happened less than 48 hours apart compounds their impact. The fact that they occurred the week before Christmas adds an emotional emphasis that is difficult to deal with.

Erik Bird, a graduate of Lake Howell High School and the placekicker for the Lehigh University football team, was an accomplished young man, well liked and well respected. Seminole High School soccer coach Carlos Merlino

SPORTS

TONY
DeSORMIER

said Friday night, "Erik was a great kid. I enjoyed playing against him."

The frightening aspect of Bird's passing was its suddenness. He was at Muhlenberg Hospital Center in Philadelphia, recovering from routine surgery to repair a separated shoulder, when he suffered a brain seizure. A CAT scan revealed the tumor.

While I have the chance to see his younger brothers play for Lake Howell, Erik had graduated by the time I had come here. My knowledge of him comes from the stories other coaches tell of him — like the night he kicked a 50-yard extra point against Oviedo — and from

the dispatches sent by Lehigh.

Even though I had never met him, the image I have of him is as the recording-setting placekicker from Lehigh. And while family and friends feel cheated of the opportunity to say goodbye or to see what Erik may have become, that will be the last memory most of us will have of him, vital and successful. It's a good memory, one worth clinging to.

What strikes us all at a primal emotional level is the unfairness of it. How does a strong young man in the middle of a hospital surrounded by doctors and support personnel suddenly die? How does someone survive when the Volkswagen Bug in which they're riding is involved in an accident and bursts into flames?

Those things don't happen.

For Billy Jones and Beverly Snider, being at the right place at the right time was the difference. More accurately, it was Shea Scott, the son of Lyman High School football coach Bill Scott and a member of the Lyman football team, and Dustin Minton being at

the right place at the right time.

Jones, Snider and her younger brother Danny were leaving Lake Howell in Jones' Bug when they were struck by a Jeep, causing the Bug's gas tank to explode. Scott and Minton, riding in a car behind them, ran to the car, smashed the car window and pulled Jones and Snider from the wreck.

Danny Snyder escaped by kicking out the rear window and climbing out.

Looking at the photographs of the accident, it's amazing anyone riding in that Bug survived.

Even more astonishing are the actions of Scott and Minton. Approach a burning vehicle and pull someone from it takes courage that most of us like to think we have but pray we never have to find out if we do.

So as you prepare for Christmas, remember the Birds. Think of the Jones, Snider, Scott and Minton families. Be aware of how fragile — and as a result, how precious — our existence is. Treasure it and that of those around you.

Ultimately, it's all we have.

People

IN BRIEF



This man is available

Call on Santa

Santa is still available to visit your home or office today and tomorrow. If you are interested, contact Bill Wilkins, club president of Rotaract Club of Sanford, at 323-7859.

Poinsettia beloved as symbol

Widely used and beloved as the symbol of the Christmas season is the popular poinsettia. No other flower makes as brilliant a show of bright red flowers throughout the festive holidays.

Despite their popularity, many homeowners seem to be a little confused about the actual flowers of the poinsettia. The true flowers are small, green and yellow and inconspicuous. The showy red parts, often mistaken as the flowers are not parts of the flower; instead, they are highly modified petal-like leaves which are called bracts. These bracts are formed below each flower.

When you go to the garden centers, florist shops or nurseries to select your poinsettias, here are a few tips to help you purchase a healthy one. First, select a plant that has green foliage nearly to the soil line. Older plants or ones that have been through some water stress will usually have some loss of lower leaves. Foliage drop can also be the result of fluctuating temperatures, gas



GARDENING
CELESTE WHITE

fumes, soil problems and insects.

Second, the red bracts should be large and extend over the foliage. The usual color of the poinsettias is red, but pink and white and combinations are available.

Third, select only plants with small, tight green button-like flower parts in the center of the bracts. These little buttons will eventually develop into open flowers. If the poinsettia is already producing pollen and showing yellow, the plant has already finished a good portion of its display life and the colorful red bracts will soon begin to fade.

Once you get your poinsettia home, or if you received one as a

gift, it is important to care for it properly so you will get the maximum use out of it. The poinsettia is especially sensitive to chilling temperatures and prolonged exposure to them will cause the plant to lose some leaves. The poinsettia should be placed in a cool place in your home away from extreme heat or cold drafts. This means placing it away from radiators and other heat sources. The ideal night temperature is between 60-70°.

The method of watering can determine the life expectancy of your poinsettia. Proper watering involves applying water in sufficient quantities to thoroughly soak the soil in the pot until it runs out the bottom, and adding no more water until the soil approaches dryness again. Your finger stuck in the soil a few inches is the best indicator of soil moisture. Poinsettias should be checked for moisture frequently and not watered if the soil is still moist. If your poinsettia suffers from lack of water, some of the lower foliage will yellow and be lost leaving a leggy plant. Poinsettia flowers can be used

to decorate the home as cut flowers, too. To have them last as long as possible as a cut flower, first you must seal the cut end of the stem to coagulate the milky sap and reduce wilting. This can be done by immersing the cut end of the stem in hot water for one minute then placing it in cool water. The poinsettia flowers should be cut at least 24 hours before they are to be used and stored in a cool place after sealing them.

Poinsettias can be put in the ground after their use in the home. Cut off the faded blooms to about a 6-8 inch height and place them in a sunny area of your landscape about the end of February when all danger of frost is passed.

All Seminole County Cooperative Extension Service programs are open to all regardless of race, color, sex or national origin.

Celeste White is Seminole County Urban Horticulturist. Inquiries may be made to Agricultural Center, 250 W. County Home Road, Sanford, FL 32773. Phone 323-2500, ex. 5558.

Man's best friend deserves more than just friendship

DEAR ABBY: I am a volunteer and board member at the Mercer County Humane Society animal shelter in West Virginia.

Approximately 10,000 animals pass through our shelter each year, many of which do not find homes. We feed and love them, but there aren't enough good homes for all of them.

I feel sure that puppies and kittens are on many children's wish lists for Christmas. Pets can be man's best friends and wonderful companions, but I wish that people would realize how much care a pet actually requires. All the cats and dogs that end up at our shelter were once someone's sweet little kitten or puppy.

Enclosed is a column you wrote 10 years ago, titled "Doggy in the Window." Please give it another go.

SARAH R. GIBSON, PRINCETON, W. VA.

DEAR MS. GIBSON: At the risk of winding up in the doghouse (some readers do not like reruns), I'll chance it:

DEAR ABBY: My name is Joshua and I am 7 years old. I want a dog, but my mother says no. I really want one bad. Abby, I will take any kind. I promise to take care of it. How can I get my mother to let me have a dog?

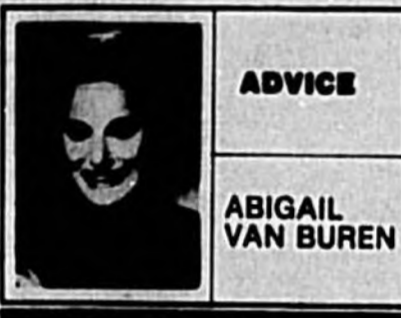
WANTING A DOG

DEAR JOSHUA: Please answer these questions:

1. Who will prepare the dog's meals?
2. Will someone be home during the day to look after the dog?

3. If the dog is a puppy, someone will have to exercise it at least twice a day. Who will do it?

4. Who will pay for the dog's license, collar, shots, regular examinations at the vet's and



ADVICE
ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

any emergency treatment the dog may need?

5. Who will pay the cost of spaying or neutering your pet to prevent the birth of more unwanted puppies in a nation that already has too many? Everyday, thousands are "put to sleep."

6. Are you willing to obey all the laws concerning dogs, such as keeping yours on a leash, and seeing that it doesn't do its "business" where it shouldn't?

7. Are you willing to care for the dog as long as it lives?

Important lessons are learned from having a pet, but it takes time, money and a willingness to accept responsibility to be a dog owner. Can you handle it?

DEAR ABBY: About a month ago, my husband and I decided to do our Christmas shopping early. We bought coats, ski pants, thermal socks and boots — for homeless people.

I can't begin to describe the joy it gave us. Shopping had never been so much fun. Instead of worrying about sizes and colors, we simply bought warm, sturdy clothes. Since we bought everything at an outlet store, we managed to get about 100 items, including 17 winter coats — for a little more than \$1,000.

When we delivered the clothes to the local shelter, the manager was overjoyed. Winter weather had arrived the night before, and

she had already given out all the winter coats. She had dreaded coming to the shelter that night, knowing she had no warm clothes to distribute.

Next year, my husband and I will celebrate Christmas twice. The first time will be in July! Abby, won't you please let your readers know that "Christmas" can happen any day of the year — the joys of giving are rewarding beyond belief, and the need is always there.

OVERJOYED IN EVANSTON, ILL.

DEAR OVERJOYED: Thanks for reiterating a homily that may sound corny — but it is, indeed, more blessed to give than to receive.

DEAR ABBY: Thank you for suggesting that licking envelopes and postage stamps is unsanitary, then recommending a damp sponge instead. Right on.

Many years ago, when I was living in a college dormitory, I noticed that my postage stamps were not sticking to the envelopes no matter how much I licked them. Then I discovered that cockroaches were eating the glue off the stamps! With everyone in the dorm getting cookies from home, it was impossible to rid the dorm of roaches.

Now that I have my own home and am confident that it is free of bugs, I lick without worrying.

JOHN WAYLAND, WACO, TEXAS

DEAR JOHN: Better keep your tongue in your mouth. I learned the hard way that storing those brown paper grocery sacks is not a good idea. The glue on the sacks attract not only cockroaches, but mice and rats, too. (Sorry if I spoiled your breakfast.)



Photo by Herman Schroeder

The Over 50 Club, Sanford, hosted its annual Christmas party at the Sanford Civic Center recently. About 150 people attended, including, top photo, left to right: Walter Stiermer, Frances Stiermer, Louise Hayes, Dorothy Schroeder, Edna Bowen, Marion McNeill and Ina Ratliff. Right: Mr. and Mrs. Claus, alias Ethel and Irving Fried, stand behind Erma Killian and Edith McCain.

Christmas cheer

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U.S. SAVINGS BONDS

MOVIELAND DRIVE-IN
\$3.00 EACH or more on one screen. SHOWTIME 7:45
Star Trek VI 7:45
Rocketeer 10:10

8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
ABC News 12 5:00 6:00 7:00 8:00 9:00 10:00 11:00	MBC News CBS News ABC News 5:00 6:00 7:00 8:00 9:00 10:00 11:00	Current Affairs Star Trek: The Next Generation Jaggy ALF The New Family Carnegie Sledge Night Court Cheers 20/20 Robert Egan Bonanza	Ent. Tonight The Sound of Music Economic Update Major Dad Murphy Brown Dee Dee NFL Football Chicago Bears at San Francisco HBA Basketball Orlando Magic at Miami Heat (Live)	Musical The Sound of Music Muzak Joe Andrews Christopher Plummer Major Dad Murphy Brown Dee Dee NFL Football Chicago Bears at San Francisco Orlando Magic at Miami Heat (Live)	1965 Musical Joe Andrews Christopher Plummer Major Dad Murphy Brown Dee Dee NFL Football Chicago Bears at San Francisco Orlando Magic at Miami Heat (Live)	7:45 8:00 8:15 8:30 8:45 9:00 9:15 9:30 9:45 10:00 10:15 10:30 10:45 11:00 11:15 11:30	7:45 8:00 8:15 8:30 8:45 9:00 9:15 9:30 9:45 10:00 10:15 10:30 10:45 11:00 11:15 11:30

Litchfield Theatres
Opening Christmas Day At Litchfield Luxury Theatres

THE PRINCE OF TIDES
BARBRA STREISAND NICK NOLTE
4:15 7:45 10:30

BLACK ROBE
"AMAZING!"
4:15 7:00 9:30

RAMBLING ROSE
A fabulous film.
3:45 7:15 9:30

CAPE FEAR
1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00

BUGSY
1:45 4:30 7:30 10:15

THE LAST THING
1:15 2:30 3:45 6:00 10:30
Premiere Suspended

MY GIRL
2:00 4:45 7:30 9:45

Hook
1:00 4:00 7:45 10:15

Beauty and the Beast
2:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

NO LATE SHOWS CHRISTMAS EVE • NO EARLY SHOWS CHRISTMAS DAY

ALL MOVIES IN STEREO SOUND

BLONDIE



by Chic Young

BEETLE BAILEY



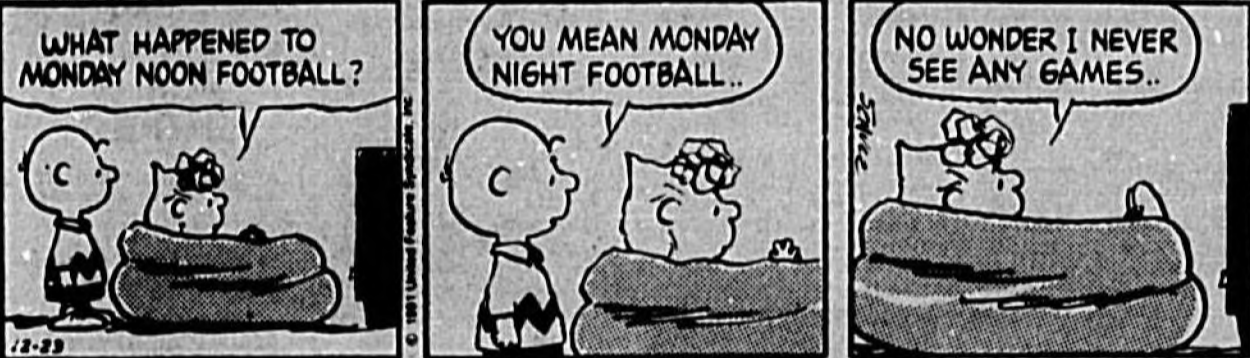
by Mort Walker

THE BORN LOSER



by Art Sanson

PEANUTS



by Charles M. Schulz

EEK & MEEK



by Howie Schneider

HOW TO MAKE A MERRY CHRISTMAS



By Lane and Miller

ARLO AND JANIS



by Jimmy Johnson

FRANK AND ERNEST



by Bob Thaves

GARFIELD



by Jim Davis

ROBOTMAN



by Jim Meddick

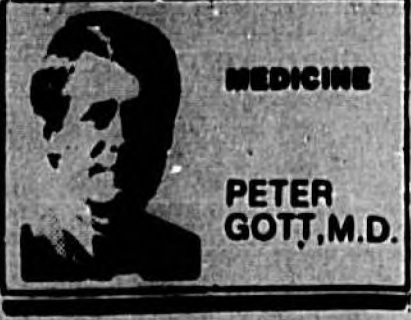
Is wine the answer for heart disease?

The irony, described in a recent '60 Minutes' segment, is that Frenchmen have half the heart attacks of their American counterparts...

Do the health claims for drinking red wine have scientific merit? Apparently, they do. Leroy Creasy and Evan Siemann, plant biologists at Cornell University...

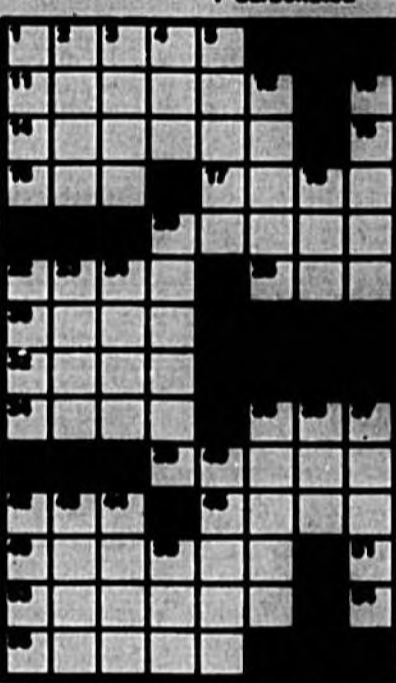
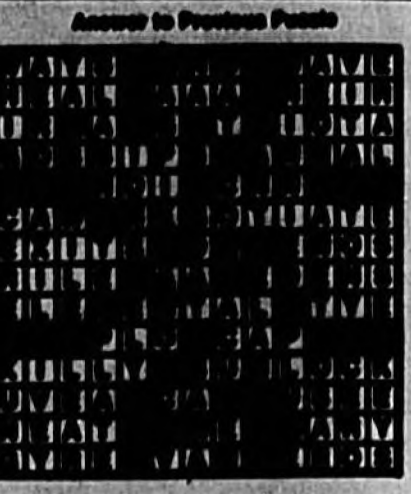
American cardiologists ponder the issue of why the French, who consume astronomical amounts of cheese, cream, butter, eggs and pate, are less likely to have heart disease than we are...

Of course, this is horrid news for millions of alcoholics, who take the position that if four glasses of wine a day is a good program, a bottle or two would be even better...



remedies, reduced cholesterol in experimental rats. (C)1991 NEWSPAPER ENTERPRISE ASSN.

- ACROSS 1 Brownish 2 Future ally, noun 3 Cheated a robot 4 Rootlessness 5 Blasted tree 6 Fat, e.g. 7 Critic's position 8 Small hole 9 Flower necklace 10 Shirts 11 Lou's boss 12 Dakota 13 Off-white 14 Defeat soundly 15 Actor James 16 Graded, in heraldry 17 Bomb shelter 18 Anti-prohibition 19 35 Cream 20 Future ally, noun 21 Combustion 22 12. Roman 23 Common sense 24 Animal feet 25 Cat of composites 26 Mislead 27 Is in store for 28 Closed up 29 Baseballer 30 Keufen 31 Layers 32 Center of wheel 33 Night sight 34 Hole 35 Highway curve 36 Resound 37 John 38 Carbonated



- DOWN 1 Actor of sword 2 Night sight 3 Hole 4 Highway curve 5 Resound 6 John 7 Carbonated 8 Beverage 9 Actor 10 Jamming 11 Kind of phrenology 12 More serious 13 Mislead 14 Cans movie 15 Blatant 16 Actor 17 Bring to mind 18 Group of men 19 Frigate (2 wds.) 20 Green shot 21 Tails 22 - 20 23 Entry 24 Iron (clothes) 25 Physicians' oath 26 Tree-creating animal 27 Quince 28 Jan 29 Dec. holiday 30 Mphoys 31 Oil superior 32 Winner 33 Jacob's son 34 Service 35 India tree 36 Mislead poem

WIN AT BRIDGE

By Phillip Alder In London, the top bridge players all have nicknames. This is a character trait of that area, but the monikers don't mean anything to outsiders. However, there is one bridge player whose nickname is known worldwide...

establishable in clubs, and probably four in diamonds. However, if you attack diamonds immediately, the defenders might switch to hearts, leaving you with an awkward guess about how to play that suit...

Bridge hand diagram showing North-South and East-West hands with cards and a vulnerable dealer.

HOROSCOPE

By Bernice Bede Osof YOUR BIRTHDAY Dec. 24, 1991 Don't alter your methods of operation in the year ahead on a project you've been developing for some time...

today, and there's a chance you'll procrastinate until the last minute. And when you do get in gear, it isn't likely you'll make up for lost time. ARIES (March 21-April 19) Try to avoid financial gambles today...

judgment and jeopardize your own interests. It's better to risk offending than suffer self-inflictions. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Your hunches might be given precedence over your usual logical perspective today...

