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See expanded weather on Page 2

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THE PAMPA NEWS

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Pampa's housing market enjoys growth period

By KERRI SMITH
Staff Writer

Housing shortages in Pampa have been a problem over the past few years. The oil boom and a better economy have brought new residents to Pampa and the supply of houses to buy and rent has become limited.

This has caused selling prices to reach highs that have not been seen in Pampa

in 2006 than 2005, but the prices were higher, causing the total amount to be more.

In 2005, 220 houses were sold for a total of \$13,475,000. In 2006, 209 houses were sold for a total of \$14,310,000, making the average sale price in 2005 about \$61,000 and for 2006 about \$70,000. These figures are only for residential houses within the city limits of Pampa.



Pampa News photo by KERRI SMITH
The Pampa housing market is enjoying growth, thanks to the recent oil boom.

SALE PENDING

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Jim Davidson
669-1953

When Edwards compared the prices of houses that sold in 2005 and then sold again in 2006, the average price last year was 10 to 15 percent higher than in 2005.

New construction can be seen near Hidden Hills Golf Course. One home is nearly complete and will be listed soon for a selling price of \$200,000 to \$300,000, according to Century 21 owner Jim Davidson. He said eight new homes are planned for that area north of town.

Markers are in place for the construction of three new homes on the east end of town.

for a long time. Also, new construction of homes and apartments is either currently under way or in the planning stages.

According to Judi Edwards, co-owner of Quentin Williams Realtors, there were fewer houses sold

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Traffic stops decline in 2006 over those made in 2005

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

Gray County Sheriff's Office reported a decrease in the number of traffic stops in 2006 from those conducted in 2005, with the percentage of stops involving various races remaining much the same between the two years.

deputies. Of those, 101 were male and 34 were female.

During the stops, 51 searches of vehicles and persons were conducted, 14 by consent. Thirty-seven of the searches resulted in arrests.

Groups represented in the 2006 stops were white, 108; black, 8; Hispanic, 17; and Asian, 2. The percentage of each group was 80 percent white, 6 percent black, approximately 12.5 percent Hispanic, and 1.5 percent Asian.

The annual report was presented and accepted at county commissioners' Monday meeting.

In calendar year 2006, 135 individuals were stopped by county

In 2005, 186 traffic stops were

made, consisting of 135 males and 51 females.

Breakdown of the 186 stops was 145 white, 12 black and 29 Hispanic. The percentage of each group was 78 percent white, 6.4 percent black, and 15.6 percent Hispanic.

Fifty-seven searches were conducted in 2005, including 15 consensual searches. Forty-two arrests were made.

According to the 2000 census, the latest census information available, Gray County has a population of

22,744. Of those, 18,685, or 82.2 percent, are white; 2,959, or 13 percent, are Hispanic or Latino; 1,330, or 5.8 percent, are black or African American; 214, or 0.9 percent, are American Indian and Alaska native; 88, or 0.4 percent, are Asian; 5 are native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander; 1,871, or 8.2 percent, are some other race; and 551, or 2.4 percent, are two or more races.

Males make up 51 percent of the

See REPORT, Page 3

Artist enjoys the business side of art – framing



Pampa News photo by DAVID BOWSER
Sue Abbott holds one of her oils as she sits in front of a seascape that she painted.

By DAVID BOWSER
Staff Writer

Sue Abbott loves fine art. She still paints occasionally, but work keeps getting in her way.

As an outgrowth of her passion for art, she opened Pampa Custom Framing on Cuyler a few years ago, but now she finds herself framing other people's work and displaying other Pampa artists.

She laughed that she has only four of her paintings on exhibition. Then she complains that she just doesn't get to paint much anymore.

"I was born in Los Angeles and went to my first year of school in Amarillo," Abbott said.

Then she moved to Pampa and has been here ever since. Her Dad worked for Cabot. She went to South Plains College in Levelland and majored in art.

"I love to paint," she said. Most of her work is in oil and pastel. "I like realistic painting," Abbott said. "Some people call it photo-realism."

She had been working at another frame shop and they decided to sell out and close

down. In Pampa at the time, she said her choices of employment were limited with her art training, so she decided to go into business for herself.

"I really like framing," she said. "It gives me pleasure to do things right. I guess that's the perfection in me."

Despite her desire to get back to the canvas and paints, she said she enjoys her business.

"I get a kick out of customers when they come in," Abbott said. "Their first reaction is generally always good. It makes me feel good that we pleased them."

Having always been involved in the art community, Abbott is avid about promoting the arts in Pampa. She was president of the Pampa Fine Arts Association in 2002 and remains an active member.

The Pampa Fine Arts Association has been an institution in the community for almost 40 years.

During her life in Pampa, Abbott has seen the local art community from a variety of aspects, as an artist, as head of an art asso-

See ARTIST, Page 3

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NEXT DAY FORECAST

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Partly cloudy	Partly cloudy	Partly cloudy

Wednesday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 35. Wind chill values between 2 and 12. South wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.
 Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 20. Wind chill values between 10 and 15. South wind 10 to 15 mph becoming west. Winds could gust as high as 20 mph.

Thursday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 39. North-northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.
 Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 17. East-northeast wind around 5 mph becoming south.

Friday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 38. South wind around 5 mph becoming calm.
 Friday Night: A slight chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 22. Calm wind becoming southwest around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.

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Obituaries

Amy Bynum, 67

HEFLIN, La. — Amy Bynum, 67, died Jan. 12, 2007, at Heflin. Services are pending with Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa. —Sign the on-line register book at www.carmichael-whitley.com.

Eva Mae Kelly, 80

Eva Mae Kelly, 80, of Pampa, died Jan. 16, 2006, at Pampa. Services are pending with Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa. —Sign the on-line register book at www.carmichael-whitley.com.

Texas today ...

Peru expected to open Dallas consulate this year

DALLAS (AP) — The second Peruvian Consulate in Texas is expected to open later this year in the Dallas area, where authorities have been criticized for their handling of incidents involving citizens of Peru.

The state's only Peruvian Consulate in Houston, which serves Texas, Oklahoma and other states, estimates that up to 10,000 Peruvians live in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

It could take up to five months before the consulate opens because officials are trying to find a location, secure funding and transfer documents to Dallas, the Peruvian Association of Dallas-Fort Worth said.

Officials named Luis Wilfredo Sandiga Cabrera,

who served as Peru's ambassador in Jamaica through last year, as the Dallas consul.

Juror deliberations to resume today in smuggling deaths retrial

HOUSTON (AP) — A truck driver convicted for his role in the nation's deadliest human smuggling attempt continues to wait for a jury's decision on whether he will be sentenced to death.

After a five-day break, a jury was expected to resume deliberations today in the retrial of Tyrone Williams. In the 2003 smuggling attempt, 19 illegal immigrants who were locked in Williams' sweltering trailer for hours eventually died from dehydration, overheating and suffocation.

Stocks

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

Wheat	NA
Milo	NA
Corn	NA
Soybeans	NA

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

OXY	44.01	-0.39
BP PLC ADR	64.25	-0.39
Cabot Corp	46.75	+0.37
Celanese	25.50	+0.10
Cabot Oil Gas	58.66	-0.21
Coca Cola	48.52	-0.03
VLO	50.34	-0.23
HAL	28.91	-0.21
TRI	39.93	-0.01
KMI	106.01	+0.04
XCEL	23.04	+0.17
Anadarko	41.66	-0.17
XOM	72.30	-0.36
Nat'l Oilwell	56.44	+0.40
Limited	28.32	-0.30
Williams	25.97	+0.14
MCD	44.40	+0.18
Atmos	31.31	+0.01
Pioneer Nat	38.58	+0.07
JCP	79.20	+0.33
COP	64.12	+0.29
SLB	57.87	-0.02
Tenneco	26.70	-0.27
CVX	70.32	-0.03
Wal-Mart	48.18	+0.20
ORKE	41.81	+0.16
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 West Texas Crude52.99

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STATE

Perry gets sworn in for second full term today

By JIM VERTUNO
 Associated Press Writer

AUSTIN (AP) — Ice and bone-chilling temperatures forced Gov. Rick Perry to start his second full term, the one that could make him the longest serving governor in state history, in the warmth and safety of the Texas House of Representatives chamber.

Perry and Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst were to be sworn into new four-year terms this morning in ceremonies originally scheduled outside at the state Capitol.

But a winter storm that has glazed much of the state with ice dumped freezing rain on the area, forcing officials to move the traditional ceremony inside, said spokeswoman Glenna Bruun.

"The weather conditions are just too bad to continue outside," Bruun said.

The last regularly scheduled inaugural ceremony to be forced indoors was in 1957 for Gov. Price Daniel, Bruun said.

Officials had already canceled the downtown parade but Bruun noted the inaugural barbecue will still be held outside on the west side of the Capitol.

"The barbecue is still on," Bruun said, as is the glittery black-tie ball this evening at the Austin Convention Center.

Before the weather turned bitterly cold, organizers expected up to 5,000 people to attend the outdoor ceremony with up to 1,200 invited guests and political supporters.

On Monday, workers had been putting the finishing touches on the outdoor stage and seating and hung a large Texas flag above the building doors, framed by the famous pink granite dome on top.

For Perry, 56, today's ceremony is the start of a chance to seal his legacy in terms of longevity.

Assuming he is in office the entire term — his name has been mentioned as a possible vice-presidential candidate in 2008 — the Republican will have served 10 years, longer than any Texas governor. Perry said last week he has no interest in going to Washington, D.C., but didn't say

outright he wouldn't accept such an offer.

In his 20-year political career, Perry has charted an upward course that began with his first election to the state House in the 1980s as a Democrat. He was a Republican by the time he made his move to statewide office, first as agriculture commissioner and then to the lieutenant governor's office in 1999.

He ascended to the governor's office in 2000 when George W. Bush was elected president.

'I am optimistic about what can be accomplished in the coming four years with a spirit of bipartisan consensus. I truly believe we have a role to play in dispensing hope, creating opportunity, and shaping the future, and I will work every day to foster trust between Texans and their government.'

— Texas Gov. Rick Perry

Perry has never lost an election. He won his first bid for governor in 2002 and was re-elected in November in a unique race with three major challengers: Democrat Chris Bell and independent candidates Carole Keeton Strayhorn and Kinky Friedman.

After a landslide victory for his first full term, Perry won his second term with just 39 percent of the vote.

Since being elected governor, Perry has worked in a Capitol dominated by Republicans in the House and Senate. Yet his first four-year term was marked by rancorous partisanship and numerous special sessions on redistricting and public school funding.

He has tried to strike a conciliatory tone since his re-election in November, pledging to work with lawmakers from both political parties as he pushes to secure the border, create jobs and improve schools.

The Legislature began its 140-day session Jan. 9, and the theme for the inaugural ceremonies is "Texas: Imagine the Possibilities."

"I am optimistic about what can be accomplished in the coming four years with a spirit of bipartisan consensus," Perry said. "I truly believe we have a role to play in dispensing hope, creating opportunity, and shaping the future, and I will work every day to foster trust between Texans and their government."

Unlike in 2003, when he was sworn in with the state facing a budget shortfall of \$10 billion, lawmakers are looking at a \$14.3 billion surplus this year. The debate over how to spend that money has only just begun.

In a recent interview with The Associated Press, Perry touted the state economy and his policies in his first six years.

"I hope there is a lot of national attention on Texas about how we do our business, how we have taken the Texas economy to one of the best, if not the best in the country," Perry said.

"I hope the spotlight gets brighter on Texas — that it is a state of innovation, of unrepentant capitalists that understand that freeing the economy from government regulations and restraints is how you build your economy."

Dewhurst, 61, who presides over the Senate and was elected in November to his second four-year term. He is considered a likely candidate to succeed Perry as governor in 2011.

To start the day, Perry and family members were scheduled to attend a private prayer service at First United Methodist Church.

The inaugural committee organizing the events estimated the total cost at about \$2 million, with about \$1.4 million donated from corporations and the rest covered by ticket sales.

Emergency Services

Pampa PD

Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents for the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Four traffic stops were made resulting in one arrest.

Accidents were reported in the 2800 block of Charles, in the 2200 block of North Sumner, in the 2300 block of Chestnut and in the 1000 block of East Foster.

Motorist assistance was provided in the 500 block of West Harvester.

Calls concerning animals were received from the 1300 block of Coffee, the 1300 block of East Francis and at the intersection of Henry and Frederic.

Warrant service was made on one occasion resulting in one arrest.

Welfare checks were made in the 1200 block of East Francis, the 400 block of East Foster and the 1200 block of Charles.

A 911 hang-up was reported in the 2000 block of Charles.

A civil matter was reported in the 1400 block of Charles.

Suspicious persons were reported in the 400 block of Doucette and the 2300 block of Christine.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 2500 block of Perryton Parkway, the 1800 block of Coffee, at the police department lobby and the 700 block of Bradley.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 800 block of East Kingsmill.

A foot pursuit was reported in the 300 block of South Dwight.

One alarm was reported.

Forgery was reported in the police department lobby.

Burglaries were reported in the 2200 block of Williston and the 1700 block of Hamilton where a first aid kit, cash and a whiskey bottle were taken worth an estimated value of \$28.

A theft over \$50 and under \$500 was reported in the 2300 block of Christine where a wooden sign, worth an estimated \$200, was stolen. The sign had Aspen Park engraved on it.

Sheriff

Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests.

Monday, Jan. 15

Tacye Carolyn Barber, 20, of Pampa was arrested by Pampa Police Department for forgery.

Rebecca Ann Covalt, 24, of Lefors was arrested by Lefors City Marshall for theft over \$20 and under \$500, capias pro fines for no insurance and capias pro fines for failure to appear.

Natashia Monet Linder, 20, of Pampa was arrested by PPD for theft by check and minor in possession.

Sabrina Jeffries, 34, of Pampa was arrested by PPD for capias pro fines for displaying expired registration, failure to maintain financial responsibility and failure to yield right-of-way while turning left.

Jerad Jerome Matlock, 23, of Fritch was arrested by GCSO after a transfer from Hutchinson County

for violation of probation for assault on a public servant, violation of probation for tampering with evidence, bond surrender for failure to identify and bond surrender for possession of a controlled substance less than one gram.

Fire

Pampa Fire Department reported the following calls during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Monday, Jan. 15

1:16 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 1400 block of South Barnes on a carbon monoxide check.

3:33 p.m. — Two units and six personnel responded to the 400 block of North Somerville on a smoke scare.

6:29 p.m. — One unit and two personnel responded to the 300 block of East Craven on a trash fire.

Ambulance

Guardian EMS ambulance reported the following calls during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Monday, Jan. 15

9:34 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 1900 block of Hilton Road and transported a patient(s) to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

1:06 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the intersection of Lefors and Jordan and transported a patient(s) to PRMC.

Bush prepares State of the Union address for Democratic Congress

By DEB RIECHMANN
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush, already facing fierce opposition to his decision to send more U.S. troops to Iraq, will confront a tough audience next Tuesday when he delivers his State of the Union address to the first Democratic Congress in 12 years.

Reducing U.S. dependence on foreign oil and supporting alternative fuels are expected to be prominent themes of his speech. Bush also will challenge Congress to fix Social Security's long-term solvency problem, find a way to compromise on immigration and preserve tax cuts. Lawmakers also will be

listening for hints of what he might veto.

Republicans see the speech as a chance for Bush to put a wide-angle lens on the nation's problems, taking the focus away from Iraq. The war's shadow will hang over the joint session of Congress when Bush speaks.

Democratic Sen. Jim Webb of Virginia, whose upset victory over Republican Sen. George Allen was the decisive race that gave Democrats control of Congress in last year's midterm elections, will give the Democratic response to Bush's address. The selection was made today by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Majority

Leader Harry Reid, said Webb spokeswoman Jessica Smith.

During the nationally televised address, Bush will be flanked by Vice President Dick Cheney and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, sitting like symbolic bookends of the political divide over the war and other issues.

"Probably the most interesting part of the speech is going to be the tone," said presidential speech expert Kathleen Hall Jamieson, who directs the Annenberg Public Policy Center at the University of Pennsylvania.

"Pelosi is going to be signaling the Democrats by when she applauds and when she doesn't,

and Cheney is going to be signaling the Republicans," she said.

Pelosi said Monday that Democrats will counter Bush's proposal to send more troops to Iraq with a plan changing the U.S. mission there "from combat to training, to fighting terrorism, to protecting our forces."

"We are saying to the president, 'What you are doing, first and foremost, has cost over 3,000 lives, every one of them precious to us,'" Pelosi said at a Martin Luther King Jr. Day speech in San Francisco. "The president does not have a plan. Democrats will hold him accountable."

Bush could use his speech to

challenge war critics to propose a plan of their own. But he'll leave room to cover domestic issues and other foreign policy concerns such as North Korea and Iran's nuclear programs.

While one team of writers was working on the Iraq speech Bush gave last week, those charged with crafting Bush's sixth State of the Union address were continuing the work they began months ago. White House officials say Bush has met with the speechwriters and given them direction, but the staff is not yet editing drafts of the address.

Obama takes first step in presidential bid

By NEDRA PICKLER
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democratic Sen. Barack Obama said today he is taking the initial step in a presidential bid that could make him the nation's first black to occupy the White House.

Obama announced on his Web site, www.barackobama.com, that he was filing a presidential exploratory committee. He said he would announce more about his plans in his home state of Illinois on Feb. 10.

"I certainly didn't expect to find myself in this position a year ago," Obama said in a video posting. "I've been struck by how hungry we all are for a different kind of politics. So I've spent some time thinking about how I could best advance the cause of change and progress that we so desperately need."

Obama, a 45-year-old with little more than two years into his Senate term, is the most inexperienced candidate considering a run for the Democratic nomination. He quickly rose to national prominence, beginning with his keynote speech at the 2004 Democratic National Convention and his election to the Senate that year, but still is an unknown quantity to many

voters.

Two best-selling autobiographies — "The Audacity of Hope: Thoughts on Reclaiming the American Dream" and "Dreams from My Father: A Story of Race and Inheritance" — have helped fill in the gaps but have still only touched a fraction of the public.

Nonetheless, he ranks as a top contender. His appeal on the stump, his unique background, his opposition to the Iraq war and the fact that he is a fresh face set him apart in a competitive race that also is expected to include front-runner Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton of New York.

Other Democrats who have announced a campaign or exploratory committee are 2004 vice presidential nominee John Edwards, former Iowa Gov. Tom Vilsack, Connecticut Sen. Chris Dodd and Ohio Rep. Dennis Kucinich.

Obama's announcement was comparatively low-key, banking on the hype building up to his decision to drive the buzz rather than a speech or high-profile media appearance. He was in Washington on Tuesday but did not plan any public appearances.

Obama tried to turn his biggest weakness — his lack of experience in national politics — into an asset by crit-

icizing the work of those who have been in power.

"The decisions that have been made in Washington these past six years, and the problems that have been ignored, have put our country in a precarious place," he said.

"America's faced big problems before," he said. "But today, our leaders in Washington seem incapable of working together in a practical, common-sense way. Politics has become so bitter and partisan, so gummed up by money and influence, that we can't tackle the big problems that demand solutions."

He said Americans are struggling financially, dependence on foreign oil threatens the environment and national security and "we're still mired in a tragic and costly war that should have never been waged."

Barack Hussein Obama was born in 1961 in Honolulu, Hawaii, where his parents met while studying at the University of Hawaii. His father was black and from Kenya; his mother, white and from Wichita, Kan.

Obama's parents divorced when he was two and his father returned to Kenya. His mother later married an Indonesian student and the family moved to Jakarta.

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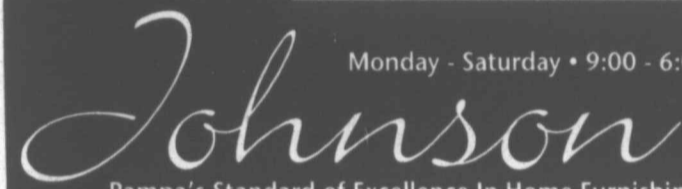
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Report

Continued from Page 1

population of Gray County, with 11,594 recorded in 2000. Females total 11,150, or 49 percent.

The annual report is required by state law, according to Lt. Joe B. Hoard of the sheriff's office.

Article 2.133 of the Texas Code of Criminal

Procedures deals with pedestrian and traffic stops, and Article 2.134 requires that no later than March 1 of each year, the head of a law enforcement agency must report to each county or municipality served by that agency the statistics relating to traffic and pedestrian stops.

Hoard had no comment concerning the decrease in number of stops from 2005 to 2006.

Lefors school board to meet Thursday

Lefors Independent School District will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday. On the agenda are recognition for sports teams, approval of the 2007-2008 school calendar, financial reports and the superintendent's report.

Items up for consideration are recognition of the girl's cross country district championship and regional finals team. The boy's football regional finalist team will be recognized also.

Action items that will be

discussed and possibly approved are the 2007-2008 school calendar and the purchase of Odyssey Ware Credit Recovery and Online Course Program.

The superintendent's report will consist of enrollment, attendance, new employees, the Region 16 disaster contract and the staffing report for the 2007-2008 school year.

The meeting will be held in the high school library at 209 E. Fifth St.

Homes

Continued from Page 1

Jerry Hunter of Legacy Homes and the approximate size should be 1,400 to 1,500 square feet. He expects these homes to sell for around \$130,000.

"Forty new homes are being planned for Harvester Street, just west of the Country Club also," Davidson said. "These should be built three at a time."

The busiest times for sales this past year were the summer and fall months of June, July, August and September.

"If people have an option on when to move, they prefer to wait until their children are out of school for the summer," Edwards said. "This keeps the children from having to change schools in the middle of the school year."

According to Edwards, the number

of houses that are for sale through real estate agents is about half of what they used to be.

"We print out an MLS listing sheet every week and lately we've only had one to three pages of listings, but a few years ago, we had five to six pages," Edwards said. "Anytime the oil industry is good, the Pampa economy is good, which translates to a good housing market."

In August 2006, there were only three houses for sale in the price range of \$80,000 to \$120,000. As of Jan. 5, there were 74 houses listed for sale through real estate agents. The breakdown of those currently listed are 12 below \$40,000, 25 from \$40-\$80,000, 11 between \$80 and \$110,000, 14 between \$110,000 and \$150,000 and 12 listed for more than \$150,000.

Edwards said the biggest change over the past few years has been the number of listings \$40,000 and less. She said that a lot of investors have bought the cheaper houses and are

using them as rentals.

There are also companies considering larger projects for the future. Davidson said a 78-unit apartment building for low-income families may begin construction in September on Alcock Street. Another company is doing an economical study right now to decide if it would be in their best interest to build an apartment complex north of town across from the hospital.

An individual who purchased property on the corner of 18th Street and Hobart recently had the old medical building demolished and has put that cleared property back up for sale. Davidson said that a few national companies have inquired about the property and some have shown interest.

The least amount of houses for sale that Edwards can remember occurred in July of 2006. There were less than 50 houses that were listed on the MLS sheet.

Edwards and Davidson both expect another good sales year for 2007.

Artist

Continued from Page 1

the talent here as abundant, but not fully appreciated.

"I think Pampa has a tremendous amount of art ability that is not fully known," she said. "A lot of people are doing their art as hobbies rather than pursue it as a profession."

She said it needs to be promoted. "There's so much talent in Pampa that it's unbelievable," she said.

While she has worked to promote fine art in Pampa, she said that there are new venues that reach far beyond the Texas Panhandle.

With the explosion of information on the Internet, Abbott said an artist

these days should have a good Web site and needs to promote it.

"That is a way to get your work out there," she said.

Abbott said that she gets many prints in her shop to be framed that were produced by artists from other parts of the world and were bought through a Web site.

She said she would like to see the artists in Pampa come together and put up a group Web site and all of the area artists could participate.

"It would take some organization and cooperation," Abbott admitted, "but I think it would be a very good thing to have one Web site that pertains to all of the artists."

Abbott said there's a lot of cooperation and support for each other in the local art community and the Pampa Fine Arts Association is active in com-

munity affairs.

"They've taken over the Festival of Trees," she said. "That's something we're trying to develop and get more participation."

They have also bought the old Burlington Depot off U.S. Highway 60 as it passes through town and plan to soon have it open for exhibitions. Abbott said she would like to see it used for workshops and shows.

"We're hoping this year to be open," Abbott said. "We've gotten a lot done in there, plumbing and walls replaced and painted."

There's carpet on the wall of the gallery room, ready for hanging an exhibition, and there's track lighting. There's office space and room for receptions and workshops.

"But there's a lot more work to be done," Abbott said.

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Viewpoints

America's youth having problems ...

I don't understand how a boy can be held captive for four years without finding a way to get free.

Shawn Hornbeck, now 15, disappeared at age 11 and has apparently been living with a man who told others Shawn was his son.

Shawn was finally found and reunited with his family in Missouri Friday after the disappearance of another boy, William Ben Ownby, 13, who was also found at the man's apartment.

I realize that I know very little of the story of Shawn's disappearance and of Shawn and the man he was found with, Michael Devlin, age 41.

But the boy apparently wasn't totally constrained

from making contact with the outside world. Authorities believe he posted two messages on a Web site that his parents had set up concerning him. And neighbors said Shawn had the freedom to ride a bicycle around the area and "hang out with friends."

Shawn wasn't a baby or toddler when he disappeared from his parents' home. He apparently isn't disabled in any way which could limit his ability to move about or communicate.

Why didn't Shawn try to make contact via the Internet with someone who could help him? Why didn't he just run away to the nearest police station or other authority, or tell anyone he

wasn't Devlin's son?

And what about neighbors who even commented on the boy's "looking just like Shawn Hornbeck"? Why didn't at least one of them contact law enforcement with their observations? It's better to say something and be found wrong than to say nothing and be found right.

Shawn may be suffering from Stockholm syndrome, also known as Helsinki syndrome. Stockholm syndrome causes a person to exhibit loyalty and an attachment to their kidnapper or whoever

is "doing them wrong." It doesn't sound logical, but it happens.

One of the most famous instances identified by some as Stockholm syndrome is the case of Patty Hearst, a member of the wealthy and



Marilyn Powers
Staff Writer

well-known Hearst publishing family, who was kidnapped in 1974 by the Symbionese Liberation

Army and subsequently came to support the group's cause. She was arrested after having taken part in a bank robbery with other SLA members and was imprisoned for almost two years

before then-President Jimmy Carter commuted her sentence.

Shawn may be in for a long period of adjustment as he begins the process of picking up the threads of his old life. One has to wonder if he will ever totally recover from the experience.

And then there is the case of the beating of a 12-year-old girl by three 14-year-old girls who had the attack recorded and posted on the Web.

If Shawn Hornbeck is having some problems, these girls all surely need help.

On Dec. 18, on Long Island, N.Y., the 12-year-old was verbally and physically attacked in front of an elementary school. Her hair

was pulled and she was repeatedly slapped and kicked in the head and body before the assailants ran away laughing.

A video of the assault was posted on the Web, and the three antagonists were caught after school administrators learned of the video.

The three were suspended from school. The victim's parents did not press charges, and the victim reportedly had no lasting physical injuries from the incident.

But the mental and emotional injuries must be there, nonetheless.

It makes me wonder what's happening to our future generations.

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Jan. 16, the 16th day of 2007. There are 349 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 16, 1920, Prohibition began in the United States as the 18th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution took effect. (It was later repealed by the 21st Amendment.)

On this date:

In 1547, Ivan IV of Russia (popularly known as "Ivan the Terrible") was crowned Czar.

In 1883, the U.S. Civil Service Commission was established.

In 1942, actress Carole Lombard, 33, her mother and about 20 other people were killed when their plane crashed near Las Vegas while returning from a war-bond promotion tour.

In 1944, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower took command of the Allied Expeditionary Forces in London.

In 1957, three B-52's (accompanied at first by two spare aircraft) took off from Castle Air Force Base in California on the first nonstop, round-the-world flight by jet planes, which lasted

'A fanatic is a man that does what he thinks the Lord would do if He knew the facts of the case.'

— Finley Peter Dunne
American humorist
(1867-1936)

45 hours and 19 minutes.

In 1957, classical music conductor Arturo Toscanini died in New York at age 89.

In 1964, the musical "Hello, Dolly!" opened on Broadway, beginning a run of 2,844 performances.

In 1967, Alan S. Boyd was sworn in as the first secretary of transportation.

In 1991, the White House announced the start of Operation Desert Storm to drive Iraqi forces out of Kuwait.

In 2003, the space shuttle Columbia blasted off with Israel's first astronaut, Ilan Ramon. (The mission ended in tragedy on Feb. 1, when the shuttle burned up during its return, killing all seven crew members.)

Ten years ago: Entertainer Bill Cosby's only son, Ennis, was shot to death in Los Angeles in an apparent roadside robbery attempt. (Mikhail Markhasev was later convicted of Ennis Cosby's killing, and sentenced to life in prison.) In Atlanta, two bomb blasts an hour apart rocked a building containing an abortion clinic, injuring six people. Israeli soldiers dismantled their military headquarters in Hebron, marking the beginning of the end of Israel's 30-year-old rule in the West Bank city.



Trans fat ban just tip of what's coming

In the wake of New York City's ban on restaurant use of trans fat, Mayor Michael Bloomberg said the ban is "not going to take away anybody's ability to go out and have the kind of food they want, in the quantities they want. ... We are just trying to make food safer."

That, my friends, is tyrannical double-talk. Let's look at it. Trans fats are derived from partially hydrogenated vegetable oils. They can raise blood levels of LDL, the "bad cholesterol." According to Dr. Elizabeth Whelan, president of American Council on Science and Health, trans fats are about 2 percent of our daily caloric intake, while saturated fats, which also raise LDL blood levels, make up 10 to 15 percent.

Naturally, we might ask, why the attack on restaurants using trans fats and not satu-

rated fats? The answer's easy; we just need a historical reference. When the anti-smoking zealots started out, they too went after a relatively small target by demanding non-smoking sections on airplanes.

That success emboldened them to demand no smoking on planes at all and in airports as well. Then came laws against smoking in restaurants.

Today, in Calabasas, Calif., smoking is prohibited outside, and several California cities have banned beach smoking. Had the anti-smoking zealots revealed their full agenda when they started out, they wouldn't have been nearly as successful. They would

have encountered too much resistance.

The nation's food zealots have taken a page from their anti-smoking counterparts. They've started out with a small target — a ban on

restaurant use of trans fats. Here's what I predict is their true agenda: If banning a fat that's only 2 percent of our daily caloric intake is wonderful, why not ban saturated fats, the intake of which is much higher? Then there's the size of restaurant servings. Instead of a law simply requiring restaurants to label the calories in a meal, there will be laws setting a legal limit on portions.

There's a Washington, D.C., organization, Center

for Science in the Public Interest, that some call busybodies, but they are more accurately described as petty tyrants. They've made a list of foods you shouldn't eat. Among them are: Dove and Haagen-Dazs ice cream, Mrs. Field's cookies and McDonald's Chicken McNuggets. If they are successful, you shouldn't be surprised to see a ban on these and similar foods.

Food zealots, who share the mindset of Mayor Bloomberg and are "... just trying to make food safer," will not be satisfied controlling restaurant menus. After all, most eating is done at home. So why wouldn't the food zealots enact bans on what can and cannot be sold in supermarkets? Nine chances out of ten, most of a person's saturated fat intake

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Texas Thoughts

By The Associated Press

A sample of editorial opinion around Texas:

■ **Jan. 8**
Austin American-Statesman on the 80th Texas Legislature convening on Tuesday:

As the 80th Legislature convenes Tuesday, let's keep in mind that for all the problems the governor and lawmakers will be called on to solve (or perhaps create), Texas is in pretty good shape.

Unemployment is below 5 percent. The housing market is healthy in most places too healthy, actually, for some property taxpayers. The economy is growing, with a major Toyota truck factory that just opened in San Antonio

and a huge Samsung semiconductor plant being built in Austin.

Even the budget is in pretty good shape, with up to \$15 billion more to spend over the current budget although the actual amount won't be known until new Comptroller Susan Combs issues her official revenue estimate. That \$15 billion figure is highly misleading, given that a big chunk of it will go toward offsetting new property tax cuts and keeping up with growth in the number of students. Even so, better to argue over \$15 billion of more than \$10 billion of less, as lawmakers did four years ago.

The very first day of the 140-day session could prove the most dramatic, if state Rep. Jim Pitts, R-Waxahachie, forces a floor vote in his challenge to

the incumbent House speaker, Rep. Tom Craddick, R-Midland. With or without a floor vote, how the winner of this rare speaker's race handles the aftermath could set the tone for a very successful, or disastrous, session.

The challenges the Legislature faces are real enough, and none will be solved in one legislative session. But it can make progress in reducing and managing them.

One of the most important challenges is costly: the need to provide a solid public education for all of the state's children and to ensure that enough of them are academically prepared for and can afford a college education. This isn't some utopian goal,

See OPINION, Page 6

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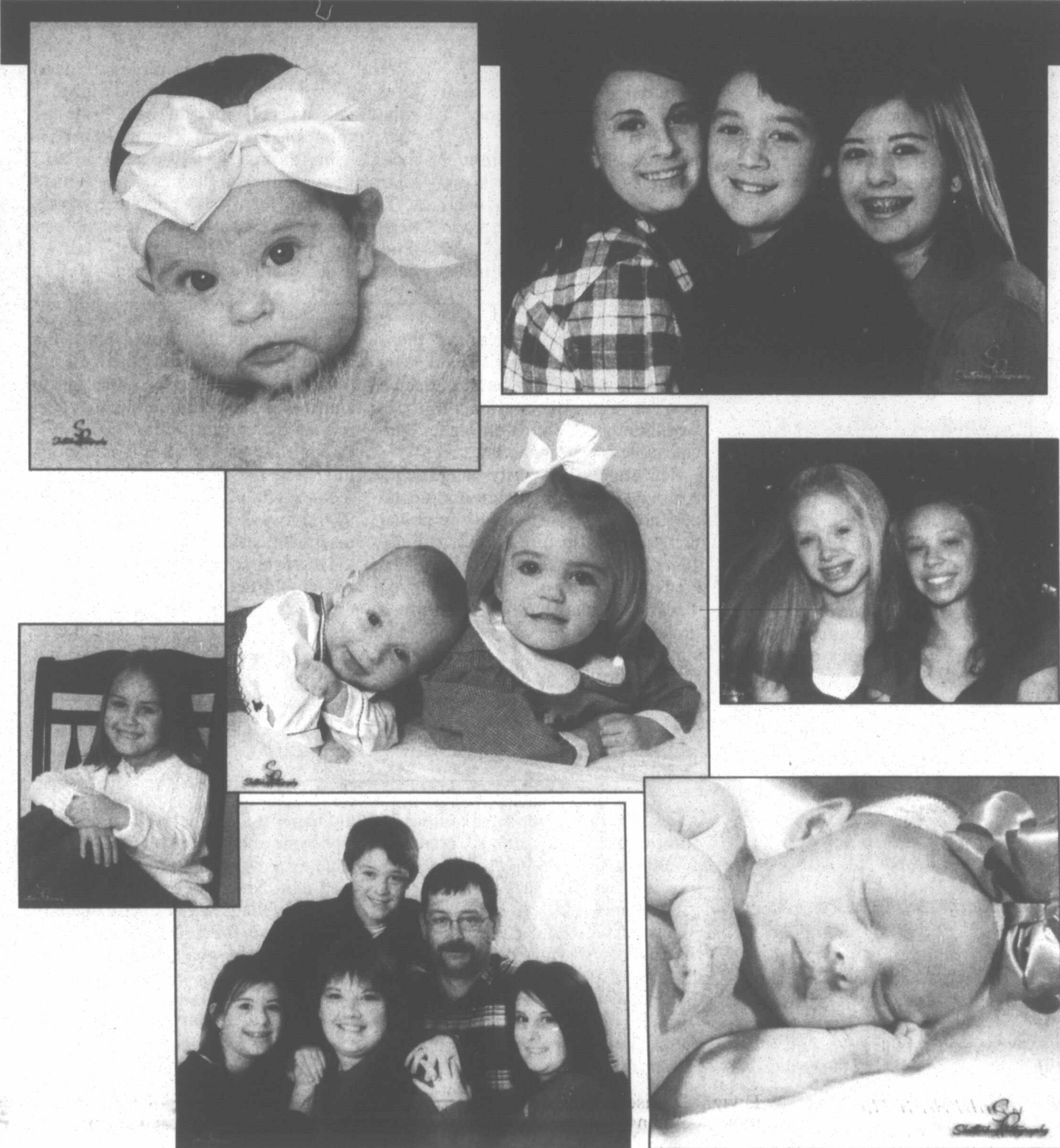
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Shutterbug Photography

Four years after opening Shutterbug Photography in 2002, owner and photographer Nikki Shelton has established a studio at 108 E. Francis in downtown Pampa.

Though her regular studio hours are 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, appointments are available on evenings and weekends for customer convenience, Nikki said.

Shutterbug even has its own Web site. Visit www.myshutterbug.com on the Internet or stop in at the studio to meet Nikki and get an up-close look at her portfolio and her work.

Nikki believes in going where the portrait/picture takes her. "I have photographed," she said, "two daycares and many families, babies, seniors, weddings, sports, numerous civic functions and clubs, Christmas parties and various other occasions."

Every year since 2005, Nikki has held "Pix-n-the Park." The 2007 annual event will be in September. "I attend annual seminars," Nikki continued, "to help bring new and exciting ideas to my photography."

Nikki is secretary for Pampa Optimist Club. She and her husband, Clint, have two daughters, Aly and Summer. The couple moved to Pampa in 2005 when Clint accepted a position with Carmichael-Whately Funeral Home.

Nikki said she began photographing families and children in her home soon after she got here. Her interest in photography dates back to 1995 in Omaha, Neb. She didn't begin seriously pursuing her passion, however, until moving to Amarillo in 2000, where she attended Amarillo College. She earned an associate's degree in photography in 2002.

The rest is history. "Please come by this week, Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Thursday from 5 to 7 p.m., to check it out and receive a coupon for a free session," Nikki said.

You may also enter a drawing for \$200 in FREE portraits at the studio and find out about package and single portrait prices as well as the "Awesome New Baby Club."

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'Babel,' 'Borat,' 'The Queen' favorites at Golden Globes

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) — A Mexican director delivered the globe-spanning best drama Golden Globe winner. A U.S. director crafted the foreign-language champ. Another American won a key acting prize playing an African dictator. And a Brit received an acting honor for playing a Kazakh man.

Monday's Globes certainly lived up to their name with an international flavor among key winners, though the drowsy ceremony failed to live up to its reputation as a spontaneous counterpart to the staid Academy Awards.

Hudson. Mexican director Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu's nominee "Pan's Labyrinth."

Best actress as Britain's priggish monarch Elizabeth II in "The Queen," while Forest Whitaker took best actor as magnetic but savage Ugandan dictator Idi Amin in "The Last King of Scotland."

"He was very charismatic, very funny," Whitaker said of Amin, whom he played as a strangely likable man despite the dictator's brutality. "That's how he was able to rise to power, and that's why the

director Golden Globe foreign-language nominee "Pan's Labyrinth."

Best actress as Britain's priggish monarch Elizabeth II in "The Queen," while Forest Whitaker took best actor as magnetic but savage Ugandan dictator Idi Amin in "The Last King of Scotland."

"He was very charismatic, very funny," Whitaker said of Amin, whom he played as a strangely likable man despite the dictator's brutality. "That's how he was able to rise to power, and that's why the

British army loved him so much and then ultimately placed him in power."

Whitaker and Mirren were considered heavy Academy Awards favorites going into the evening, and their Globe wins make them look like virtual shoo-ins for the Oscars on Feb. 25.

Mirren also won the Globe for best actress in a TV movie or miniseries as the current monarch's namesake of centuries ago in "Elizabeth I."

As today's Elizabeth, Mirren presented a human portrait of an old-school leader coping with her subjects' enmity over her handling of Princess Diana's death in 1997.

Backstage, a reporter whimsically asked if Mirren had heard from either Elizabeth about her performances.

"Dreamgirls," adapted from the stage hit about a female singing trio's rise to fame in the 1960s and '70s, led winners with three Globes: best musical or comedy and acting honors for supporting players Eddie Murphy and Jennifer

After a fairly tedious three hours, the show finally ended with a comic highlight as California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger presented the drama prize to "Babel."

Inarritu quipped, "I swear I have my papers in order. Governor, I swear."

Backstage, Inarritu celebrated the growing strength of Mexican cinema, paying tribute to countrymen Alfonso Cuaron, who made the thriller "Children of Men," and Guillermo del Toro, who made

"Not only have we been directors, but we have been such good friends for years," Inarritu said. "I'm proud of Mexican cinema, making films around the world and talking about universal themes."

The Globes for best dramatic performances were awarded for renditions of two wildly different heads of state: Helen Mirren won

Queen," while Forest Whitaker took best actor as magnetic but savage Ugandan dictator Idi Amin in "The Last King of Scotland."

"He was very charismatic, very funny," Whitaker said of Amin, whom he played as a strangely likable man despite the dictator's brutality. "That's how he was able to rise to power, and that's why the

Backstage, a reporter whimsically asked if Mirren had heard from either Elizabeth about her performances.

Opinion

Continued from Page 4

but absolutely necessary if Texas is to continue to prosper in a worldwide economy.

There will always be a need for skilled and unskilled blue-collar employees whose formal education may end with high school diplomas. If there weren't such a need, Texas and the rest of the country wouldn't be a magnet for foreign workers.

But modern economies are built, sustained and grow on more highly

educated workers, including those with advanced degrees. That's why several state leaders have indicated that this legislative session will focus considerable attention on higher education, and well it should.

The state's prosperity has brought renewed attention to environmental concerns. Projected growth in power demands has inspired plans to build 17 coal-fired power plants and generated much worry over their impact on Texas air quality. And continued growth is putting pressure on the state's water supplies, including here in Central Texas. Sen. Jeff Wentworth, R-San Antonio, is back-

ing legislation that would boost the amount of water his city can pull out of the Edwards Aquifer much to the alarm of other communities that also rely on the aquifer.

The state park system is in serious disrepair, the prison system is full, the property tax system needs reform, the highways are crowded, and health insurance costs continue to balloon.

However difficult the problems, we should not lose sight of the fact that Texas' prosperity gives lawmakers considerable means to manage them. Success is not inevitable, but with good leadership and good will, progress can be made.

Staffing shortage means big OT pay for Houston police

HOUSTON (AP) — Seventy Houston police officers earned more than \$50,000 in overtime payments in 2006 as the department worked to offset a personnel shortage, according to a newspaper analysis of police records.

The 70 officers were more than three times the number who made that much in 2005. Four of the officers earned more than \$100,000 in overtime pay, up from one officer who made that much in 2005.

The Houston Chronicle reviewed 2006 electronic payroll records it obtained under the Texas Public Information Act.

The department, which has about 4,400 rank-and-file officers, has relied on overtime to maintain a steady presence in the community and prevent rising crime amid population growth due to Hurricane Katrina evacuees.

City Controller Annise Parker planned to release an audit Tuesday looking at whether the department is correctly monitoring officers' work hours in overtime or private security. Officers are prohibited from working more than 80 hours a week, or more than a double shift in a 24-hour period.

"To the average person, thinking about their own work schedule, imagine working 80 hours, week after week," Parker said. "That has to have an impact, if not at the job, than in the family life of the officer."

City officials have said the extra overtime should be only a temporary fix to a staffing shortage. Police Chief Harold Hurtt has said the force needs up to 1,000 more officers to achieve his suggested ratio of officers to citizens.

Hans Marticiuc, president of the Houston Police Officers' Union, said supervisors monitor officers to make sure they don't become fatigued. But he agreed that overtime is a short-term fix.

Williams

Continued from Page 4

occurs during the family dinner.

You say, "Williams, that's ridiculous! They would never tell us what we can eat at home." That's precisely what you might have said when the anti-smoking zealots started out. Belmont, Calif., has recently enacted

a law not only banning smoking in apartments and other attached dwellings, but also on the street, in a park and even in one's own car.

Smokers have been relatively passive and have allowed the anti-smoking zealots to run roughshod over them. The question is whether those of us who wish to eat as we please will allow the food zealots to do the same. These people are cowards, and here's why: If Mayor Bloomberg and other food zealots think I'm eating

too many trans fats, let them personally come and take fatty foods off my plate or remove them from my shopping cart. Since they don't have the guts to do that, they correctly deem it safer to use the brute force of the state to control what I eat.

—Dr. Williams serves on the faculty of George Mason University as John M. Olin Distinguished Professor of Economics.

A Newspaper Activity Page for Young People

Kid Scoop.com

This Week: Air Pressure

© 2007 by Vicki Whiting, Editor Jeff Schinkel, Graphics Vol. 23 No. 4

You can measure high and low pressure!

Make a barometer!

The tool scientists use to measure air pressure is called a **barometer**. You can make one with things found around your house. Here's how:

- Stuff you'll need:**
- 1 balloon
 - 1 drinking straw
 - 1 wide-necked glass jar
 - glue
 - scissors
 - string

1 Cut off the neck of the balloon.

2 Stretch the balloon over the top of the jar. Secure it with a string.

3 Glue the end of the straw onto the center of the balloon.

4 Cut out the pressure scale below.

5 Tape the scale on a wall behind the jar so that when the straw is straight, it rests halfway between the high pressure and low pressure marks.

6 Over the next few days, watch the straw move up and down as the air pressure changes.

Pressure Scale

HIGH PRESSURE

LOW PRESSURE

Moving with Air

Air is made of molecules. When molecules heat up, they move faster and farther away from each other. This causes warm air to be lighter than cold air, so it rises.

This is why hot air balloons float up into the sky. Heaters blow hot air into the balloon and it fills and rises. When balloonists want to land, they turn off the heat and float downward.

Find the two identical balloons.

Standards Link: Physical Science: Students know that states of matter depend on molecular motion.

Air Pressure

Changing air pressure causes the weather to change. Warm air is lighter than cold air, so it rises. When warm air rises, it leaves behind an area of low pressure.

As air rises, it becomes cooler and starts to sink. This makes an area of high pressure.

Warm air rises
Cold air sinks
Low Pressure
High Pressure

Pressure Predictions

High pressure usually brings fair weather.

Low pressure often brings cloudy, unsettled weather.

You can use your barometer and this chart to see if this is true!

Date	Where is the straw on the air pressure scale (barometer)?	Actual weather outside

Standards Link: Investigation: Students know how to make a systematic observation.

Extra! Extra! Secret Code

Make a secret code by assigning each letter of the alphabet a number. For example, A=1, B=2, C=3, etc. Using this number code, add up the value of words in headlines. Predict which words will have the highest value and then test your prediction. Predict which will have the lowest value and test your prediction.

Standards Link: Math/Number Sense: Add whole numbers.

The Kid Scoop Puzzler

Cloud Gazing Look at the clouds below. Can you see any pictures hidden in the clouds? Outline what you see.

Standards Link: Investigation: Find similarities and differences in common objects.

Double Double Word Search

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

WEATHER	S F S N O O L L A B
PRESSURE	E L I E W K F I S H
BAROMETER	L O W R E H T A E W
BALLOONS	U A F U E L A C S
MOLECULES	C T A S D M T C R L
FIREMAN	E K I S K W A M E B
HEAT	L M R E A Y R N T A
SECRET	O B A R O M E T E R
SCALE	M R M P S D U O L C
FLOAT	
WARM	
CLOUDS	
SKY	
LOW	
FAIR	

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

FROM THE LESSON LIBRARY

Who Cares About the Weather?

Why is the weather report important to a farmer, an astronaut or a fireman? Search the newspaper to find an article or picture featuring a person who cares about the weather. Write a paragraph telling why this person needs weather reports.

Standards Link: Expository Writing: Students write in a variety of genres; Weather: Students know the ways in which weather affects daily life.

Write On!

You're the Weather Reporter

Write a newspaper article describing the weather in a make-believe location such as Candyland or Upside-downville.

Kid Scoop Together: POP Quiz

Read today's Kid Scoop page. Then, use the information on today's page to answer the questions below.

- When hot air rises, it leaves behind an area of no air. TRUE FALSE
- Cool air is heavier than hot air. TRUE FALSE
- A barometer is a tool to measure the height of bears. TRUE FALSE
- Air is made up of molecules. TRUE FALSE
- High pressure brings stormy weather. TRUE FALSE
- When air molecules heat up, they slow down. TRUE FALSE
- Farmers care about the weather. TRUE FALSE
- When balloonists want to land, they turn up the heat in their balloons. TRUE FALSE

ANSWERS:
1. False
2. True
3. False
4. True
5. False
6. True
7. True
8. False

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Use reading skills and strategies to understand a variety of text.

Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: **PRESSURE**

The noun pressure means a steady force upon a surface.

Put pressure on a cut to make it stop bleeding.

Try to use the word pressure in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family members.

Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: The letter from "Disappointed in Newport, Pa." (11/25/06), about people who don't do what they say they'll do, caught my eye. I can truly appreciate the frustration with the prospective employers who tell you they will get back to you within a week and then you hear nothing. However, in today's job market it is extremely important to take a proactive approach in your job search. After experiencing similar situations as mentioned by the writer, I decided I needed to "do my part" in the interview process. After an interview I would send a letter thanking the interviewer for speaking with me, etc. By doing this, I reminded the person of my name and qualifications. Also, please note that if you don't hear from the prospective employers within the specified time frame, it's OK to contact them and let them know you are still interested and available for any follow-up interviews or testing. In other words, no one ever got ahead sitting on his or her behind. If you want the job, show them you have the initiative. — **SHELLY IN LEESBURG, GA.**

DEAR SHELLY: When I printed the letter from "Disappointed," who felt her son and daughter had been unfairly treated by their prospective employers, it struck a nerve with readers on both sides of the desk. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: The workplace has changed everywhere, and not for the better. Years ago, I was "let go" from a major company, but they gave me plenty of time to find a new job. My next job was with a company in Cleveland that had a reputation for sudden firings. Now every company fires people ruthlessly in the same way that the Cleveland company did. There is not respect for employees anymore — only fear that they might take revenge and damage company property. Companies now want fired employees out the door as soon

as possible. — **RICHARD IN CLEVELAND HEIGHTS, OHIO**

DEAR ABBY: The professional courtesy train has left the station, and it's not coming back. I remember mailing out printed resumes and receiving a mailed response — if only to say, "We will keep your resume on file." Now, with the advent of job bulletin boards, e-mail and phone interviews, I'd interpret, "You'll hear from us in seven days" to mean, "If we really want to hire you, you'll hear from us in seven days. If you don't hear back, connect the dots!" What is perceived as lack of courtesy is really corporations embracing "efficiency" and "expediency." — **DEAN IN TAMPA, FLA.**

DEAR ABBY: As an employer, I would like to say that not all employers have trouble "giving bad news." It is part of our responsibility. However, it works both ways. Why don't employees give this same consideration to their employers? If they are unhappy in their job, why can't they let their employer know? I have had employees of more than 25 years just up and give two weeks' notice. Of course, they put in for vacation time during that period and really give only four days' notice. And this is after we have paid for their college education, professional training, bonuses, benefits and pay raises every year. As far as I'm concerned, courtesy should be a two-way street. — **DEBI IN HOUSTON**

DEAR ABBY: I, too, have been "wined and dined" during the interview process — and then nothing. Some labor lawyer friends informed me that lack of response is often the norm. No response means nobody can sue them for various kinds of discrimination. It's a sad development in our litigious society. — **JOHN IN ALAMEDA, CALIF.**

For Better Or For Worse



Zits



Garfield



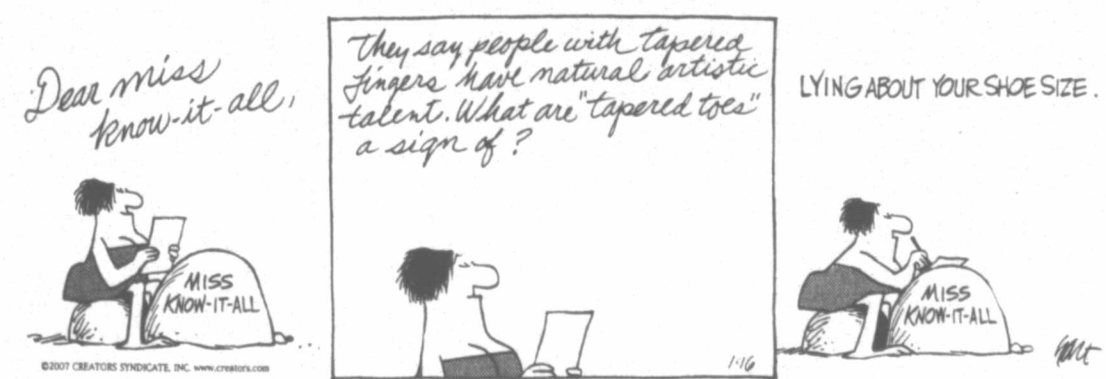
Beetle Bailey



Marvin



B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

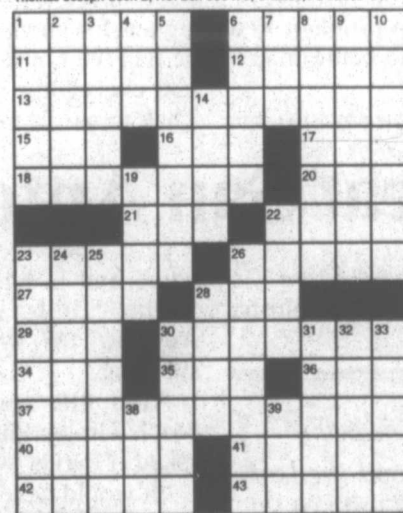
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- 13 Incredible cry
- 15 Bar fixture
- 16 Crazy —
- 17 Prospector's find
- 18 Active
- 20 Soap unit
- 21 1040 org.
- 22 Valentine trim
- 23 Woes on toes
- 26 Calendar markings
- 27 Med. sch. course
- 28 Sgt.'s superior
- 29 Beige
- 30 1920s style
- 34 Leather tool
- 35 Kids' card game
- 36 Copying
- 37 Defensive cry
- 40 Bad dog
- 41 Laughable
- 42 Improve, in a way
- 43 Carries



Yesterday's answer

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Marmaduke



The Family Circus

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



Flo & Friends



Sports Day

Optimist Club Basketball registration begins today

Registration and tryouts for basketball for boys in the third, fourth, fifth and sixth grades begin today at the Pampa Optimist Youth Club from 5:30 to 7 p.m. and will continue at the same time Wednesday and Thursday. A playing donation of \$35 is requested. Scholarships are available. All boys will be assigned to a team as early as Thursday, according to Optimist Vice-President Kevin Davis.

Ten coaches met with Davis Monday to prepare for the season. Fifth and sixth grade division coaches

include Joe Mechelay, Scott Troxell, Jeff Beyer, Jeanna Zuniga and Bino Facio. Third and fourth grade division coaches will be Russ Hughes, Todd Alvey, Alicia Hughes, Kevin Hunt and Ben Rodriguez. Stacy McCasland will bring a team from Wheeler to play in this division.

"We are still looking for more coaches so that we can have more teams," Davis said. "We would prefer to have eight or nine players on a team so that each boy will have more playing time. Under Optimist rules each

will play at least one quarter each half."

The draft of players is scheduled for Thursday. Practices will start this week. The first games will tip off Jan. 29. "We plan to have a regular season and a city tournament," Davis said. "We will work around home games for the Harvesters and Lady Harvesters and should finish the season about March 8."

The Pampa Optimist Youth Club is a Pampa United Way agency.

Kansas holds on to beat Missouri

LAWRENCE, Kan. (AP) — With two close Big 12 victories in three days, Kansas must be doing something right.

That's how coach Bill Self sees it — but he doesn't expect everyone to agree with him.

"Too many people around here think there are bonus points for margin of victory," Self said after the fifth-ranked Jayhawks held off Missouri 80-77 on Monday night. "That's not how it is in college athletics."

Kansas (16-2, 3-0 Big 12) routed then-No. 9 Oklahoma State 87-57 in Lawrence on Wednesday.

"When people play Kansas, they get up for us," Self said. "I'm not going to apologize for winning."

It should be enough, sophomore guard Brandon Rush

said, that the Jayhawks are finding ways to win the close ones.

"It's conference play, so any game's going to be tough," said Rush, who had 16 points against the Tigers. "I think because we blew out Oklahoma State at home, people expected us to blow out Missouri at home."

In the only other game involving a ranked team on Monday, No. 24 Marquette beat Louisville 74-65.

Kansas' clutch stars on Monday night were a pair of freshman reserves.

Guard Sherron Collins had seven of his career-high 23 points in the last 2 1/2 minutes. Darrell Arthur, a center, scored seven of his nine points after the midpoint of the second half. Together, they combined for 17 of the Jayhawks' last 19

points.

"They are freshmen, but they both had real good games," said Matt Lawrence, who hit four 3-pointers and led Missouri (11-6, 0-4) with 19 points. "Collins was able to get to the basket tonight, and Arthur was scoring down low in our zone. They really stepped up."

Their big performances helped Kansas extend its winning streak to 10 games — and add to Missouri's frustration. The Tigers lost their fourth straight and have not won in Allen Fieldhouse since a 73-61 victory on Jan. 24, 1999.

"There is no moral victory," first-year coach Mike Anderson said. "I thought we played a little bit better than we have been playing. I hope our players understand the urgency in conference play."

Sharapova survives sun, tenacious opponent

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — A rash of errors and a broiling sun had top-seeded Maria Sharapova drained, ailing and on the ropes.

But the Russian lived up to her reputation for fortitude, overcoming stomach cramps and an opponent who returned like a wall to advance Tuesday to the second round of the Australian Open on a day when organizers had to impose the Extreme Heat Policy.

The heat — 97 degrees at midday and rising above 100 — was even worse on the courts, where Sharapova held on to beat France's Camille Pin 6-3, 4-6, 9-7.

"It's inhumanly possible to play three hours in that kind of heat," said Sharapova, seeking her third Grand Slam title and second in a row. "I don't think our bodies were made to do that."

"I was so delusional I couldn't think."

The heat policy, which measures conditions by combining the air and court surface temperatures, was invoked halfway through her match. No new matches were allowed to start on outside courts, and the roofs were closed on the two show courts once the ongoing matches were finished.

Eighth-seeded David Nalbandian grew stronger in the heat as Janko Tipsarevic wilted, but was critical of the decision to keep some matches going while others were delayed. Tipsarevic retired with heat exhaustion in the fifth — more than 90 minutes after he wasted his chance at serving for the match — with Nalbandian leading 6-7 (5), 4-6, 7-6 (2), 6-0, 2-1.

Frenchman Sebastien Grosjean, a quarterfinalist or better at four of the last six Australian Opens, led Christophe Rochus 6-2, 4-1 when the Belgian retired because of breathing difficulties.

Playing indoors, second-seeded Rafael Nadal overcame American Robert Kendrick 7-6 (6), 6-3, 6-2; women's No. 4 Kim Clijsters, who plans to retire at the end of the year to start a family, downed Vasilisa Bardina 6-0, 6-0 in 44 minutes;

and No. 6 Martina Hingis, a three-time winner here, beat Nathalie Dechy of France 6-0, 6-2.

Fifth-seeded James Blake ousted Spain's Carlos Moya 7-6 (8), 6-2, 6-4, beating the former world No. 1 for the second time since Saturday, when they met in the final of the Sydney International. Britain's Andy Murray, seeded 15th, needed only 69 minutes for a 6-0, 6-0, 6-1 rout of Spain's Alberto Martin, who avoided the embarrassment of a shutout by holding his last service game at 0-5 in the third.

There never has been a triple bagel in the Open era at the Australian championship.

Third-seeded Nikolay Davydenko, on court once the heat policy was lifted after nearly eight hours, beat Argentina's Sergio Roitman 6-2, 7-5, 6-2.

Sharapova appeared to have drawn a mismatch against Pin, who has only reached the second round twice in 15 majors. Pin's first serves averaged 30 mph less than the Sharapova's, and Pin was mostly a retriever.

But reigning U.S. Open champion Sharapova was battling herself, committing 24 unforced errors in the first seven games alone.

She frequently sought refuge in the shade at the back of the court between points, sometimes forcing Pin to wait to serve. Her high-pitched grunts lost their force, as did her groundstrokes.

"In the middle of the second set I started getting some pinches in my abdominal muscle," she said. "It didn't happen while I was hitting a stroke and it didn't feel like a cramp, so I kind of played with it."

"I'm not a quitter," she said. "I'm not just going to stop because of the heat."

The heat policy allows for 10-minute breaks between sets for matches already under way, and Sharapova came out rejuvenated, ripping winners, a spring in her step and her grunts back in full force. She dropped only four points in the first five games of the final set.

MLS could move to buy out Beckham's Real Madrid contract

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Now that Real Madrid says it won't use David Beckham anymore, Major League Soccer could move to buy out the remaining months on his contract and bring the star midfielder to the United States in time for the start of the league's season in April.

Such a move would involve MLS working out a transfer with Real Madrid — including paying the Spanish team a percentage of Beckham's \$11.3 million salary on top of a transfer fee — before the current window to transfer international players closes Jan. 31.

Beckham agreed to a five-year contract last week with the Los Angeles Galaxy, a deal that starts after his contract with the Spanish club expires June 30. Real Madrid coach Fabio Capello said Sunday that Beckham will no longer play for the team, just practice.

"We would love to have David Beckham at the earliest opportunity, but I'm not holding my breath," Galaxy

general manager Alexi Lalas told The Associated Press on Monday. "We have structured everything based upon the assumption that he is going to be available after the season with Real Madrid."

"We were never told that he had signed for another club, that he had everything ready to go. That, to me, is not right."

— Ramon Calderon
President-Real Madrid

Beckham spokesman Simon Oliveira said Monday that the 31-year-old Englishman intends to fulfill the rest of his Real Madrid contract. Reports in Europe, however, say he could soon leave the club and head for Los Angeles. His Galaxy deal is worth up to \$250 mil-

lion in salary and potential commercial and endorsement income.

"Until the club sits down with him to address the situation, David will continue to train with Real Madrid until the end of the season with his usual professionalism," Oliveira told the AP.

MLS commissioner Don Garber said Monday that Beckham will remain a Madrid player until his contract expires, denying a Spanish newspaper story that said Beckham's lawyers were trying to arrange his early release.

"There have been many recent reports from the news media that have attributed incorrect quotes from my office, including fabricated quotes that were attributed directly to me earlier today," said Garber, who is vacationing in Mexico.

Marca, a daily newspaper in Spain, quoted Garber as saying: "I understand that the lawyers of David Beckham are working to arrange a possible friendly

way out with the white club because we would not be able to pay the buy-out clause. We want to have him as soon as possible and for this reason Galaxy and the league itself are going to do what is necessary to bring him as soon as possible. In addition, David wants to come soon."

Galaxy coach Frank Yallop was quoted in British newspapers as saying the team would see if it can get Beckham earlier than August.

"We have to wait and see what the details of his Real Madrid contract are, and if he can get out of it," Yallop was quoted as saying. "Under normal circumstances he would join us in August, but we will see if he can come sooner."

Asked whether MLS is working on a transfer involving Beckham, Lalas said, "I have no absolutely no knowledge of that. It's not appropriate for me to comment on a player that's under contract to another team."

By agreeing to a transfer, Real Madrid could recoup a percentage of Beckham's salary this season as opposed to getting nothing when he becomes a free agent on July 1.

Lalas said he and Yallop will travel to Spain at some point to meet with Beckham and "make sure he's comfortable with the direction that we're going and also inform him. There is a great unknown for him over here, too."

Capello's decision leaves Beckham with the prospect of a lengthy layoff following Jan. 7, his last appearance for Real Madrid.

"We want him to be playing as much as possible to keep up fitness and to keep sharp, but we have no absolutely no say or should we in the coaching situation at Real Madrid," Lalas said.

"Even if he were not to play for a period of time, he would have no problem in a very short time being match fit."

Los Angeles says it has

sold over 5,000 full season tickets since the Beckham announcement. The so-called "Beckham effect" also has boosted ticket sales for other MLS teams, he said.

"We are in uncharted territory here," Lalas said.

On Sunday, Capello criticized Beckham for signing with the Galaxy before informing the Madrid club.

"He signed his contract before he spoke with Madrid and for me that doesn't seem right," Capello said after Madrid's 1-0 home victory over Real Zaragoza, a game Beckham watched from a spectator box.

In an interview with Spain's Onda Cero radio, Real Madrid president Ramon Calderon also took issue with Beckham's conduct.

"We have been given the run-around for the past two months," Calderon said. "We were never told that he had signed for another club, that he had the house bought and had everything ready to go. That, to me, is not right."

Hinrich comes to the rescue to help Chicago defeat San Antonio

CHICAGO (AP) — Kirk Hinrich was back to his old self.

Hinrich had 23 points and 10 rebounds and Ben Gordon added 20 points to lead the short-handed Chicago Bulls past the San Antonio Spurs 99-87 Monday afternoon.

Tim Duncan had 21 points and 16 rebounds for the Spurs, who had a four-game winning streak snapped. Manu Ginobili scored 22 for San Antonio.

Hinrich was in a shooting slump last week and also bothered by a recent groin injury. Known for his defense, he limited Spurs star Tony Parker to six points and two assists.

"I have been feeling good the last few games. I kind of gotten back to myself, playing aggressive on both ends and I think my floor game has been a lot better," Hinrich said.

"I have played a lot more loose. I think before I was kind of thinking too much, kind of worrying about what the coaches wanted me to do. Instead of going out and playing and using my instincts," he said.

The Bulls played without Chris Duhon and Ben Wallace. Duhon was suspended for one game for missing practice on Sunday and Wallace missed his second straight game because of a sore back.

"I don't want to be short-handed, but we've been able to get away with it for a couple of games," Bulls coach Scott Skiles said. "It's not something long-term I want to do. It gives other guys who are good NBA players an opportunity to play. You get to see other people and it helps me get a different perspective on some other guys."

Trailing 27-23 early in the second quarter, Chicago went on a 17-5 run to take the lead for good. Thabo Sefolosha started it with a jumper and Gordon followed with a 3.

Gordon gave the Bulls a 42-32 lead with consecutive jumpers and Chicago led 52-

45 at the half.

Gordon, making his eighth start of the season, started in place of Duhon and scored 11 points in the second quarter. Rookie Tyrus Thomas also got a rare start in place of Wallace and finished the game with eight points, eight rebounds and five blocked shots.

Luol Deng scored 17 for Chicago.

"All in all, they just outplayed us," Duncan said. "They're a good defensive ballclub, very good at rotating."

Reserve Andres Nocioni gave the Bulls a 74-64 lead with a half hook with 15.7 seconds left in the third quarter. The Bulls extended its

lead with consecutive 3s from Nocioni and Sefolosha

"I have been feeling good the last few games. I kind of gotten back to myself, playing aggressive on both ends."

— Kirk Hinrich
Chicago Bulls

to give them a 83-69 early in the fourth quarter. Nocioni finished with 12

points and 11 rebounds.

The Bulls held San Antonio to 39.5 percent shooting.

After the game, Spurs coach Gregg Popovich was asked if Parker was hurt.

"It would have made more sense if he was hurt. But he's fine, which is not the way he played, if you catch my drift," Popovich said.

Wallace is listed as day-to-day. ... Robert Horry had a highlight dunk over Nocioni late in the third quarter. ... Hinrich finished with seven assists. ... The Bulls beat the Spurs at home for the first time since Dec. 28, 2000. Before Monday, Chicago had lost five straight at home to the Spurs.

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IRAQI WAR

Rice lobbies Arab allies for support

By ANNE GEARAN
AP Diplomatic Writer

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice's appeal for Arab allies to help support the fragile government in Iraq drew only a tepid endorsement today from the administration's strongest ally in the region.

Saudi Foreign Minister Saud al-Faisal said Saudis hope President Bush's plans to turn around the situation in Iraq is successful, but was plainly skeptical that the Iraqi government is up to the task of doing its part.

"We are hoping these objectives will be implemented, but the means are not in our hands," he said. "They are in the hands of the Iraqis themselves."

Al-Faisal spoke at length about the centuries old civilization in Iraq where Sunni and Shiite Muslims have been living together for years, but are now threatened by sectarian violence that has killed thousands.

"I cannot for the life of me conceive that a country

'We share risk and we share responsibility, because this is an area of the world which will very much be affected by how Iraq turns out.'

— Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice

like that would commit suicide," said al-Faisal, adding that he prefers not to speculate about the "dire consequences" of a Sunni-Shia civil war.

Rice thanked the Saudis for their past help in urging national reconciliation in Iraq, but did not press specific new requests for the predominantly Sunni kingdom's help.

Although a distinct minority, Sunnis had dominated the government in Iraq until the U.S.-led ouster of Saddam Hussein left Shias in control.

Rice, who has said debt relief would be a good way for Saudi Arabia to help its neighbor, sounded more optimistic than al-Faisal about the will of the Iraqi government.

"As the president has said, Iraqis have to decide what kind of country they will be," Rice said, alluding to Bush's assertion that the ultimate future of Iraq is in the hands of Iraqis.

Rice and al-Faisal commented after a morning meeting that followed a Monday evening dinner for Rice hosted by Saudi King Abdullah.

She flew to Kuwait later today for private meetings with counterparts from eight Arab countries in her continued quest for assistance with Iraq.

"We share risk and we share responsibility, because this is an area of the world which will very much be affected by how Iraq turns out," Rice said during a press conference

Monday in Egypt.

The Arab leaders are eager for the U.S. to take a larger role in brokering peace between Israel, the Palestinians and others in the region. While in Egypt, Rice announced she will bring together the Israeli and Palestinian leaders in the coming weeks for a summit dedicated to exploring ideas for an eventual Palestinian state.

Before she left Washington, Rice told Congress that Saudi Arabia should do more to help the Iraqi government because a "failed state" next door to the kingdom would ensure an expanded role in the region for old rival Iran.

Testifying before the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Rice said the single best thing Saudi Arabia could do would be to provide debt relief for Iraq.

Rice was responding to a question from committee chairman Tom Lantos, D-Calif., who said the Saudis should use revenues from high oil prices to ease the U.S. financial burden in Iraq.

BP failed on safety, Baker report says

By JOHN PORRETTO
AP Business Writer
HOUSTON (AP) —

British oil company BP failed to emphasize safety at its U.S. refineries before the 2005 Texas City explosion that killed 15, according to a report released today by an independent panel led by former U.S. Secretary of State James A. Baker III.

The panel, in a statement summarizing its 300-plus page report on BP PLC's operations, said the company had made strides in personal accident prevention but came up short on the bigger picture.

"The panel maintains a central theme that prior to the Texas City tragedy BP emphasized personal safety and had achieved significant improvements in personal injury rates, but the company did not emphasize process safety," the statement said. "BP mistakenly interpreted improving personal injury rates as an indication of acceptable process safety performance at its U.S. refineries."

The 11-member panel made 10 recommendations, including that an independent monitor report to the company's board of direc-

tors for a period of five years. The full report was to be released later today.

Baker has led the panel investigating corporate management at Houston-based BP Products North America following the March 2005 blast that killed 15 people and injured more than 170 others.

The U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board, known as the CSB, urged BP in August 2005 to hire outside experts to look at the company's oversight of safety management systems and make its findings public — similar to an investigation at NASA following the space shuttle Columbia tragedy.

The panel, announced in October 2005, has traveled to BP's five U.S. refineries and interviewed hundreds of employees.

"BP tended to have a short-term focus in its U.S. refining operations, and its decentralized management system and entrepreneurial culture delegated substantial discretion to U.S. refinery plant managers without clearly defining process safety expectations, responsibilities or accountabilities," the panel said.

Insurance companies taking heat in consumer credit case

By PETE YOST
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Lawyers for insurance companies and consumers want the Supreme Court to settle a dispute over notifying customers when their credit report is used against them.

At issue in arguments to

be presented to the court today are requirements in the Fair Credit Reporting Act holding businesses liable when they fail to inform customers of adverse decisions made because of credit reports.

A decision a year ago by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco

would make it easier for consumers to prevail when they sue corporations for allegedly violating the law. The Supreme Court agreed to hear the appeal of two insurance companies, GEICO and Safeco.

Much of the business community has lined up behind the insurers, telling

the justices in a brief that the appeals court ruling "may increase even more the risk of enormous damage recoveries."

The case casts a spotlight on the business world's vast credit reporting system, which has compiled files on 200 million Americans.

Congress passed the cred-

it reporting act in 1970 to protect consumers from flaws in the system and improve the reliability of reports.

The system's cornerstone is consumer monitoring of their credit reports for accuracy. Consumer groups say the insurance companies are weakening the system by

looking for ways to avoid notifying customers when it uses a credit report in making a decision.

"Consumers who do not receive an adverse action notice ... do not learn of their right to a free credit report to check its accuracy," a half-dozen advocacy groups said in court papers.

Club news

Club news is published strictly on a first come, first serve basis due to space limitations. The deadline each week for Sunday's paper is Wednesday at 5 p.m. (Tuesday at 12 noon on holidays such as Thanksgiving and Christmas.) The deadline does not guarantee publication that week. Thank you.

DAR

Las Pampas Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution NSDAR met Jan. 4 with Vice Regent Fran Gross presiding. Donna Burger acted as hostess.

The following business was conducted and announcements made:

—Gross delivered the keynote address on "Native American Heroes." Her subject was Mitchell Red Cloud, Jr., a U.S. Marine wounded at Okinawa during World War II. Red Cloud was honorably discharged and two years later enlisted in the U.S. Army. He was sent to Japan and then to Korea. He was fatally wounded defending E Company from Chinese troops.

He posthumously earned the Medal of Honor and the Republic of Korea War Service Medal. The USNS Red Cloud Strategic Sealift Ship was named in his honor.

—Sudie Reeder gave a presentation on Francis Scott Key, author of the national anthem, "The Star Spangled Banner."

—Willie Mae Mangold, Nancy Coffee and Peggy Palmitier, members of the Nominating Committee, presented for consideration the list of officers for 2007-09. Elected were Kay Slate, regent; Ruth McBride, vice regent; Reeder, secretary;

Louisa Britton, chaplain; Mary Cantrell, treasurer; Burger, registrar; Mangold, historian; and Donna Clyde Arms, librarian.

—The 38th Annual DAR Tea will be Feb. 11 in the Education Building at First United Methodist Church of Pampa. Both DAR Good Citizens and essay contest winners will be honored. AFS Exchange students will be introduced.

Altrusa

Altrusa International Inc., of Pampa met Jan. 9 at First United Methodist Church with President Joan Gray-Soria presiding. Penni Pfizner served as greeter. Jennifer Brumley, Anne Reed, Suzanne Pingle and Mayce Ogle attended as guests.

The following business was conducted and announcements made:

—Terry Gamblin reviewed the procedure for election of the nominating committee and mid-year evaluation for the Accent.

—Committee Reports were heard on the following December projects: Gift-Wrapping, Childrens Shopping Tour, Schneider House, Tralee Angel Tree and ASTRA.

—Gamblin, Myrna Orr, Judy Warner and Virginia Dewey were elected to the nominating committee.

—Kadda Schale reminded members of the District Conference to be held April 20-23 in Amarillo. A committee meeting to plan events for the conference is scheduled at 6:30 p.m. Jan. 18 at the home of Kerrick Horton, 2434 Evergreen.

birthdays in January.

The next meeting will be at 12 p.m. Jan. 23 at First United Methodist Church.

Preceptor Theta Iota

Preceptor Theta Iota Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi of Pampa met Jan. 8 at the home of Nancy Brodgin with President Carolyn Smith presiding.

The following business was conducted and announcements made:

—Recording Secretary Monica Leonard read minutes of the previous meeting.

—Treasurer Barb Benyshek delivered the treasurer's report.

—Plans for the Sweetheart Banquet were discussed. The banquet will be held at the Plaza, and Smith will host the Dessert Party afterward.

—Brodgin presented the program on her visit to the Titanic exhibit in Lubbock.

The next meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 22 at First Christian Church with hostess Ann Franklin.

Magic Plains ABWA

Magic Plains Chapter of the American Business Women's Association met Jan. 8 at Lovett Memorial Library in Pampa with Eltha Hensley serving as hostess.

The following business was conducted and announcements made:

—Members discussed plans for a Business Associate and Woman of the Year Banquet in March.

—The chapter will stage its attendance and membership contest throughout February, March and April.

—Plans were made for a Valentine's dinner to be held at 7 p.m. Feb. 8 at the Plaza.

—Progress on the scholarship fund-raiser was heard.

Pecans are still available from any member. To find out more, call 669-7277.

The next meeting will be at 7 p.m. Feb. 12 at Lovett Library.

20th Century Club

Twentieth Century Study Club of Pampa met Jan. 9 at the home of hostess Nancy Coffee.

The following business was discussed and announcements made:

—Committee reports were heard.

—Louise Bailey delivered the program on First Lady Jackie Kennedy Onassis.

Officers for 2007-08 will be elected at the next meeting which is scheduled at 1:30 p.m. Jan. 23 at the home of Cleo Worley, 1901 N. Russell.

SPECIAL OFFER!
WEDNESDAYS ONLY!

Chicken Fried Steak Dinner

You get:

- Chicken Fried Steak with white gravy
- Individual mashed potatoes with gravy
- Individual cole slaw
- 1 baked biscuit

\$1.99
plus tax, no substitutions

PAMPA
2201 N. Hobart St. ■ 665-2766

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Do I have enough to retire?
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