



Tomorrow's Weather

HIGH 49
LOW 25

See expanded weather on Page 2

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Man impersonates animal control officer

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

Impersonation of a public servant took a relatively unheard-of twist in Pampa Friday when someone reported that a man was impersonating an animal control officer.

The report was made in the lobby of Pampa Police Department, 201 W. Kingsmill, at approximately 4 p.m. Friday, according to police records.

The person making the report said that a man had gone to the person's residence and attempted to convince

the person that he was an animal control officer.

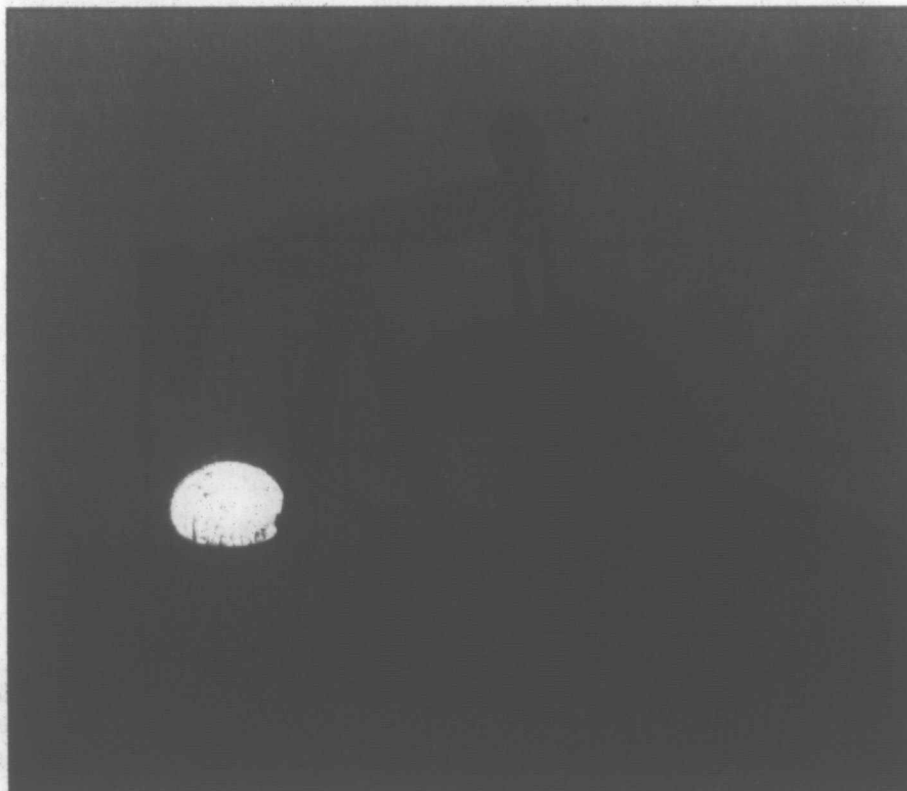
"He said he'd give them a \$500 fine if they didn't feed and water their dog," said PPD Sgt. Donny Brown.

"All our animal control officers wear distinctive uniforms, carry radios and drive marked vehicles," Brown said.

No arrest have been made in connection with the case, which remains open.

Anyone with information concerning the impersonator may call the police department at 669-5700.

Sunrise



Pampa News Photo by DAVID BOWSER
Nodding in the morning sun, a pumpjack southeast of Pampa greets the day.

ARREST

Beer bust leads sheriff's deputies to drug bust

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

Three visitors to Pampa may have planned to have a beer bust Saturday, but they found themselves the subjects of a drug bust.

Gray County Deputy Stephen White was dispatched to the Allsup's convenience store at the corner of Price Road and Highway 152 at 6 p.m. Saturday concerning theft of an 18-pack carton of beer.

A description of the suspects' vehicle was provided along with other information concerning the theft, and as White drove to the scene he spotted the vehicle at the intersection of Hobart and Alcock streets and radioed in its location. Deputies Zach Kidd and Rhett Rollins responded, said GCSO Lt. Joe B. Hoard.

White continued to the Allsup's while Kidd and Rollins stopped the suspect vehicle in the 700 block of West Francis. White got a description of the person who reportedly carried out the beer without paying for it, along with other information from the Allsup's clerk, and radioed it to Rollins and Kidd.

"They said one of the people in the vehicle matched the description," Hoard said.

The suspect who matched the clerk's description, Steven Wade Trejo, 21, of Fort Worth, was arrested and he and the vehicle were searched.

Marijuana was found to be in Trejo's possession, and he was charged with possession of less

See ARRESTS, Page 3

Supreme Court justices appear divided over lethal injection case

WASHINGTON (AP) — Supreme Court justices indicated Monday they are deeply divided over a challenge to the way most states execute prisoners by lethal injection, which critics say creates an avoidable risk of excruciating pain.

With executions in the United States halted since late September, the court heard arguments in a case from Kentucky that calls into question the mix of three drugs used in most executions. A decision could have a major impact in Texas, which executes more people than any other state.

Justice Antonin Scalia was among several conservatives on the court who suggested he would uphold Kentucky's method of execution and allow capital punishment to resume.

States have been careful to adopt procedures that do not seek to inflict pain and should not be barred from

carrying out executions even if prison officials sometimes make mistakes in administering drugs, Scalia said. "There is no painless requirement" in the Constitution, Scalia said.

But other justices said they are troubled by the procedure in which three drugs are administered in succession to knock out, paralyze and kill prisoners. The argument against the three-drug protocol is that if the initial anesthetic does not take hold, a third drug that stops the heart can cause excruciating pain. The second drug, meanwhile, paralyzes the prisoner, rendering him unable to express his discomfort.

"I'm terribly troubled by the fact that the second drug seems to cause all risk of excruciating pain," Justice John Paul Stevens said.

Both sides in the case said they

See COURT, Page 3

Zoning commission will consider request, re-plat

The Pampa Planning and Zoning Commission will meet today to consider a rezoning request and a re-plat.

Ian and Martha Mackey have requested the rezoning of God's Plateau Subdivision from residential to commercial.

The commission will also consid-

er a re-plat of the triangular piece of land at Duncan and Perryton Parkway for SDI Pampa Venture Subdivision.

The Pampa Planning and Zoning Commission will meet at 5 p.m. today in the city commission chambers of City Hall.

City commission to consider settlement with Atmos Energy

By DAVID BOWSER
Staff Writer

The Pampa City Commission will consider the issuance of certificates of obligations during their first meeting of the new year.

The commission will also consider a settlement with Atmos Energy over the gas utility's proposal to implement rate adjustments.

The city commission is expected to approve \$50,000 toward a new electronic sign at M.K. Brown Auditorium. The Pampa Economic Development Corporation will also contribute \$50,000 toward the \$100,000 sign.

The commission will also address a re-plat of the triangular lot at Perryton Parkway and Duncan.

The commission will also consider an animal control agreement with Groom, Lefors, Miami, Skellytown and White Deer.

They will consider buying new carts for Hidden Hills Golf Course, approving a new agreement with the Pampa Economic Development Corporation and authorizing the sale of a 1988 pickup as surplus property.

The commission will consider

bids of \$2,657 from William Shelton for delinquent tax property at 714 N. Banks; \$4,000 from Larry Beck for delinquent tax property at 600 N. Banks; \$500 from Winton Companies for 1620 N. Dwight; \$2,500 by Winton Companies, 1616 N. Dwight; \$500 by Winton Companies, 1612 N. Dwight; \$500 by Derek Peters, 1617 N. Dwight; \$1,001.50 by Brian Darnell, 843 S. Faulkner; \$2,500 by Daniel and Emma Trejo, 1116 S. Dwight; \$1,000 by Larry Beck, 1104 S. Dwight; \$100 by Kevin Benson, 508 Crawford; \$500 by Inocente and Estella Cabrales, 706 N. West; \$325 by William Shelton, 624 N. Frost; \$200 by Yolanda Young, 1040 Neel; \$3,100 by William Shelton, 417 N. Barnes; \$600 by Robert Ruiz, 845 E. Denver; \$150 by Lindell and Sherry Poteet, 713 E. Scott; \$255 by William Shelton, 800 E. Denver; \$100 by J.D. Mullen, 736 E. Brunow, and \$600 by Daniel and Emma Trejo, 717 Sloan.

The Pampa City Commission will meet at 4 p.m., Tuesday, in the city commission chambers of City Hall.

NEXT DAY FORECAST

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday



Mostly sunny Partly sunny Mostly sunny

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 49. Wind chill values between 15 and 25 early. Windy, with a north northwest wind 20 to 25 mph decreasing to between 5 and 10 mph. Winds could gust as high as 35 mph.

Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 25. Wind chill values between 15 and 20. East wind 5 to 15 mph becoming south.

Wednesday: Partly sunny, with a high near 57. South wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Wednesday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 30. South southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 50. West southwest wind 10 to 20 mph becoming north northwest. Winds could gust as high as 25 mph.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 27. Northwest wind around 5 mph becoming south.

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Miranda Lambert's family offers wine named for songs

LINDALE, Texas (AP) — How about a sip of Kerosene?

The son of country star Miranda Lambert is also the name of a wine being marketed by her family.

Beverly Lambert of Lindale says the Red 55 Winery is attracting tourists to the town. The name comes from her daughter's first truck, a red 1955 Chevy, the mother said.

There's also a blush wine called Electric Pink, named for one of the singer's guitars.

Lambert's latest single comes out Jan. 15. That's when the family's two newest wines will be available — Gunpowder & Lead, and Crazy Ex-Girlfriend — also Lambert songs.

The Lambert family teamed with Lou Viney Vineyards of Winnsboro to offer the wine.

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Obituaries

Ronnie Lee Blackburn, 58

Ronnie Lee Blackburn, 58, of Pampa, died Jan. 5, 2008, at Pampa. Memorial services will be announced at a later date. Cremation and arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mr. Blackburn was born Jan. 25, 1949, in Dalhart, and had been a resident of Pampa for 10 years. He was

a self-employed mud and taper in the construction business in Amarillo for 30 years.

He was preceded in death by his father, Estell Blackburn, and by a great nephew, Adam Blaine Ross.

Survivors include a daughter, Shanna Gale Blackburn of Houston; his mother, Edna Blackburn of

Pampa; one sister, Rose Wright of Pampa; two aunts, Bonnie Young and Mary Boortz, both of Lefors; three nephews, Howard Sullivan and Ron Howard, both of Amarillo, and Lee Sullivan of Colorado Springs; one niece, Renea Hubbard of Albuquerque, N.M.; 12 great nieces and nephews; three great-great nieces and

nephews and many cousins; and former wife, Pat Freeman.

Memorials can be made to Hospice Care of the Southwest, 1301 S. Coulter, Suite 404, Amarillo, Texas 79106.

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

Sally Cole Bolin, 72

Sally Cole Bolin, 72, of Pampa, died Jan. 5, 2008, at Pampa. Services are scheduled for 2 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2008, at Memory Gardens Mausoleum, with Minister Robert Locher of the Philadelphia Church of God in Edmond, Okla., officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Bolin was born Aug. 13, 1935, in Saltillo, Texas. She graduated from Saltillo High School where she played basketball on the varsity team. She attended nursing school in Plainview. She

later moved to Hedley, Texas and worked as a nurse at Hall County Hospital in Memphis, Texas, for several years. After moving to Amarillo, she started her own housekeeping business that she owned for 35 years, retiring in 2006.

Sally was a member of the Philadelphia Church of God in Edmond, Okla. She loved spending time with her family, sewing, working crossword

puzzles, baking for her great-grandchildren and listening to Irish music. She will be remembered most as a wonderful loving mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, aunt and friend. She was a faithful servant to God.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Jerome and Ivey Cole and one brother, Jerome "Jerry" Cole.

Survivors include three sons, David Bolin and wife Lanita of McLean, Daniel

Bolin of Hedley, and Ricky Bolin and wife Lisa of Independence, Mo.; two daughters, Nicki Fulfer of Lewisburg, Mo., and Kim Voss and husband Mike of Pampa; 13 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; one nephew; two nieces and a host of great-nephews and great-nieces.

Memorials can be made to Philadelphia Church of God, P.O. Box 3700, Edmond, Okla. 73083.

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



Bolin

Opal Marie Sanders, 92

Opal Marie Sanders, 92, of Pampa, died Jan. 4, 2008, at Pampa. Graveside services were held at 2 p.m. Monday, Jan. 7, 2008, at Fairview Cemetery, with Rev. C. W. Parker, Odyssey Hospice chaplain, officiating. Arrangements were under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Sanders was born July 12, 1915, in Childress County, Texas. She married William V. Sanders on Oct. 16, 1937, in Missouri. He preceded her in death in 1967.

Opal was a member of the Eastern Star in St. Louis, Mo. She and Verne moved from St. Louis to San Bernardino, Ca., where they lived for the next 35 years.

She owned a lady's dress shop, retiring in 1985. Opal

was a pilot and owned her own plane. She flew in the Powder Puff Derby, a cross country race, in 1960 and 1961. She returned to Texas in 1999 where she was a member of the First Christian Church.

She was preceded in death by her parents and two sisters, Beatrice Bailey and Nellie

Schock. Survivors include one sister, Francis Hall of Pampa; three nephews, Charles Hall and wife Charlotte, Kenneth Hall and wife Carolyn, all of Pampa, and James Hall and wife Brenda of Keller; nine great nieces and nephews, and 22 great-great nieces and nephews.

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



Sanders

Emergency Services

Fire

Pampa Fire Department reported the following calls during the 48-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Saturday, Jan. 5
 12:52 p.m. — One unit and two personnel responded to the intersection of County Roads Y and 28 for mutual aid on a grass fire.

1:39 p.m. — One unit and two personnel responded one mile south on Highway 70 for mutual aid.

2:05 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the intersection of Fisher and Sloan on a smoke scare.

8:01 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 8300 block of Highway 70 on a medical assist.

Sunday, Jan. 6
 12:01 p.m. — One unit and three personnel

responded to the 1500 block of West Kentucky on a medical assist.

Monday, Jan. 7
 12:07 a.m. — One unit and five personnel responded to the 2600 block of West Kentucky on a motor vehicle accident.

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

Saturday, Jan. 5
 Marcher Hughes, 21, of Pampa was arrested in the 1100 block of Prairie Drive by Pampa Police Department for failure to display driver's license, no valid driver's license and failure to appear.

Robert Tracy Hayes, 29, of Borger was arrested on Municipal Drive by PPD for theft over \$50 and under \$500.

Terry Len Hayes, 47, of Borger was arrested on Municipal Drive by PPD for theft over \$50 and under \$500.

Angel Ivan Juarez, 26, of Laveen, Ariz. was arrested by Texas Department of Public Safety for possession of 50 or more pounds but less than 2,000 pounds of marijuana.

Javier Juarez, 29, of Laveen, Ariz. was arrested by DPS for possession of 50 or more pounds but less than 2,000 pounds of marijuana.

Ricky Torres, 20, of Grand Prairie was arrested by GCSO for possession of 400 or more grams of a controlled substance.

Steven Trejo, 21, of Fort Worth was arrested by GCSO for possession of 400 or more grams of a controlled substance, possession of less than two ounces of marijuana and Tarrant County warrants for theft valued at \$50 or more but less than \$500 and burglary of a habitation.

Christopher Bell, 20, of Pampa was arrested in the 400 block of West 19th by PPD for no proof of liability insurance and expired motor vehicle registration.

Jessica Cinecio, 17, of Fort Worth was arrested by GCSO for possession of 400 or more grams of a controlled substance.

Sunday, Jan. 6
 Jesus Sanchez, 38, of Pampa was arrested in the 500 block of West Foster by PPD for public intoxication.

Juan Amaya, 35, of Pampa was arrested in the 500 block of West Foster by PPD for driving while intoxicated.

Ambulance

Guardian EMS Ambulance Service reported the following calls during the 28-hour weekend period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Saturday, Jan. 5
 1:11 p.m. — A MICU responded to the 1500 block of West Kentucky and transported a patient to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

5:29 p.m. — A MICU responded to PRMC and transported a patient to BSA in Amarillo.

6:02 p.m. — A MICU responded to PRMC and transported a patient to Coronado Healthcare.

8:01 p.m. — A MICU responded to Highway 70 and transported a patient to PRMC.

8:10 p.m. — A MICU responded to the 2100 block of Mary Ellen and transported a patient to PRMC.

Sunday, Jan. 6
 11:48 a.m. — A MICU responded to Coronado Healthcare and transported a patient to PRMC.

6:21 p.m. — A MICU responded to the 1200 block of Hamilton and transported a patient to PRMC.

11:59 p.m. — A MICU responded to the 2600 block of West-Kentucky, but no

transport was made.

Pampa PD

Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents for the 72-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Friday, Jan. 4
 Thirty-eight traffic stops were made.

A traffic complaint was received from the intersection of Love and Oklahoma streets.

Vehicle accidents were reported at the intersection of Kentucky and Hamilton streets, the 100 block of South Hobart and the intersection of Ballard and Francis streets.

An abandoned vehicle was reported in the 1800 block of Hamilton.

A pursuit was reported in the 1500 block of Williston.

Animal control officers made stops concerning animals in the 1800 block of Alcock, the 700 block of North Dwight, the 500 block of North Somerville, the 1600 block of West Somerville, the 500 block of Perry, the 1500 block of North Faulkner, the 700 block of Locust, the intersection of 23rd and Sumner streets, on two occasions in the 1000 block of South Sumner, the 1500 block of North Sumner and the 1800 block of Evergreen.

A welfare check was made in the 1200 block of East Kingsmill.

Public intoxication was reported in the 800 block of Municipal Drive. At least one arrest was made in connection with the incident.

A narcotics violation was reported in the 2800 block of Charles.

Information received in the police department lobby concerning a man impersonating a Pampa animal control officer.

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Arrests

Continued from Page 1

than two ounces of the drug, according to jail records.

"Inside the vehicle, the deputies found several small baggies of a substance believed to be cocaine," Hoard said. "They also found a cup full of a carbonated beverage that had more baggies in it

which contained suspected cocaine."

A charge of possession of 400 or more grams of a controlled substance was added to Trejo's charges, which also included Tarrant County charges of theft valued at \$50 or more but less than \$500 and burglary of a habitation.

Two others in the vehicle were also arrested and charged with possession of 400 or more grams of a controlled substance. They are Ricky Torres, 20, of Grand Prairie and Jessica Marie Cinecio, 17, of Fort

Worth.

The remaining passenger in the vehicle, a 1-month-old infant, was taken into the custody of Child Protective Services, Hoard said.

Trejo, Torres and Cinecio remained in Gray County Jail as of press time in lieu of bond, according to jail records. Each had bond set at \$25,000 on the possession of a controlled substance charge. Trejo's charge of possession of marijuana added another \$4,000 to his total bond.

Court

Continued from Page 1

are bothered by the seemingly endless series of death penalty cases that come to the court.

Justice David Souter urged his colleagues to take the time necessary to issue a definitive decision about the three-drug method in this case, even if it means sending the case back to Kentucky for more study by courts there.

Scalia, however, said such a move would mean "a national cessation of executions. We're looking at years. We wouldn't want that to happen."

Kentucky, backed by the Bush administration, says it works hard to execute inmates humanely, countering claims that its procedure violates the 8th Amendment ban on cruel and unusual punishment.

But Donald Verrilli, a Washington lawyer who is a veteran of capital cases, told the justices that problems with executions in California, North Carolina and other states show that the three-drug procedure should be scrapped or thoroughly revamped.

"The risk here is real. That is why it is unlawful to euthanize animals the way Kentucky executes inmates," Verrilli said. Kentucky bars the use of the paralytic on animals. An overdose of barbiturates is

commonly used on animals.

Verrilli suggested a similar method be adopted in Kentucky.

But Roy Englert, arguing for the state, said a single drug has never been used in executions.

By contrast, he said, Kentucky regularly trains its execution team and employs an experienced worker to insert the intravenous lines through which the drugs are administered.

Recent executions in Florida and Ohio took much longer than usual, with strong indications that the prisoners suffered severe pain in the process. Workers had trouble inserting the IV lines that are used to deliver the drugs.

DEATHS

Family from Mexico all killed in mobile home fire

ALVIN, Texas (AP) — A couple from Mexico and their three young children died early Monday when their mobile home caught fire in a dilapidated, rural trailer park south of Houston.

Brazoria County Fire Marshal Al Priselac said the fire appears to have started in a bedroom, but the exact cause was not yet known.

The victims included a 33-year-old man, a 26-year-old woman and three children, ages 7, 4, 1, Priselac said, declining to release names. Family members identified the couple as Ignacio and Rosa Contreras and the children as Yazmin Reyes, 7, Ignacio Jr., 4, and Vincente, 1, the Houston Chronicle reported Monday in its online edition.

"She was a very outgoing person and a good mother to those kids," Rosa Contreras' sister-in-law, Francisca Borjas, told the newspaper. "He was a roofer and he was always trying to help people with their roofs or something

else they had to take care of."

The Mexican couple had a common-law marriage and were not U.S. citizens, family members told the newspaper. Yazmin was in second grade, and Ignacio Jr. was in preschool.

The girl was bright and "very happy to be in the U.S. and learning English," Borjas said.

The Ashley Oaks trailer park about 30 miles south of Houston housed mostly Hispanic residents. Most homes are in disrepair and surrounded by overgrown weeds and trash. Managers of the park did not immediately return a telephone call from The Associated Press.

The Contreras' trailer was run-down but obviously well cared for, with hanging flower pots still on the wooden front porch on Monday morning.

A small string of icicle lights hung on the trailer and another set of lights was winding through a cactus and set of shrubs, but investigators don't believe

those lights were on when the fire started.

Officials also said they didn't believe the victims smoked or had a Christmas tree that could have caught fire, Priselac said.

Neighbor Maria Surr told The Associated Press her husband called the fire department at about midnight Monday after their dog woke them up by barking and scratching at the door.

The fire was nearly extinguished on its own by the time two firefighters were able to enter the trailer, Priselac said, probably because the blaze ran out of oxygen.

The man and one of the children were found in a front bedroom, while the woman and the two other children were found in an attached bathroom, Priselac said.

The adults and the 4-year-old were pronounced dead at the scene, he said. The other two children were airlifted to a hospital, where they died.

Record

Continued from Page 2

Suspicious person calls were received from the intersection of Hobart and McCullough streets, the 300 block of North Hobart and the 300 block of South Starkweather.

Silent/abusive 911 calls were received from the 1900 block of Williston and the 1000 block of East Kingsmill.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 900 block of North Frost.

Criminal trespass was reported in the police department lobby.

Graffiti was reported at Central Park, 1000 block of Duncan. The incident involved a wall of a bathroom/storage facility.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 1000 block of North Christine. A vehicle was egged. Estimated cost of damage is less than \$50.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 1200 block of North Hobart, the 200 block of Tyng and the 500 block of North Nelson.

Domestic disturbances were reported in the 1800 block of North Faulkner, the 800 block of Scott and the 1200 block of Garland. At least one arrest was made in connection with the incident in the 1800 block of North Faulkner.

A follow-up investigation at Pampa High School, 111 E. Harvester, resulted in at least one arrest.

Forgery was reported in the police department lobby.

Theft was reported in the police department lobby and the 1900 block of North Hobart.

Burglary of a motor vehicle was reported in the 1100 block of East Francis.

Unauthorized use of a motor vehicle was reported in the 1200 block of North Wells.

Saturday, Jan. 5

Thirty-one traffic stops were made. Stops in the 1100 block of Prairie Drive and the intersection of 19th and Coffee streets resulted in arrests.

Motorist assistance was rendered at the intersection of Harvester and Duncan streets.

Animal control officers made stops concerning ani-

mals in the 400 block of North Gray, the 500 block of North Somerville, the 900 block of East Browning, the 700 block of Sloan, the 100 block of North Faulkner, the 900 block of Love, on three occasions in the 1100 block of Sirroco, the 1900 block of North Faulkner, the 700 block of Denver, the 1600 block of North Banks, the 1300 block of Mary Ellen, the 400 block of East Randy Matson and the 600 block of Carr.

Agency assistance was rendered at the intersection of Highway 273 and County Road W and at Fritch.

Welfare checks were made in the 900 block of Love, the 400 block of Magnolia, the 300 block of Tignor and the 1200 block of North Hobart.

Suspicious person calls were received from the 1000 block of Varnon Drive, the 1800 block of Lea, on two occasions in the 2800 block of Charles, the intersection of Somerville and Sumner streets and the 1000 block of Neel Road.

A suspicious vehicle call was received from the 100 block of West 30th.

A prowler was reported in the 1000 block of South Dwight.

Silent/abusive 911 calls were received from the 700 block of North Hobart and the 900 block of East Kentucky. The call from the 900 block of East Kentucky involved children left at home alone.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 400 block of Doucette, the 1400 block of Williston, the 300 block of North Roberta, the 1900 block of North Faulkner and the 300 block of North Warren.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 1900 block of Holly. A brick mailbox was knocked over. Estimated cost of damage is \$500.

Criminal mischief was reported at Culberson-Stowers, 805 N. Hobart. A window was shot out. Estimated cost of damage is \$1,000 to \$1,500.

Criminal mischief was reported at Ranch House Motel, 720 E. Frederic. A window valued at \$400 was shot.

Criminal mischief was reported at Allsup's, 309 N. Hobart. A window was shot.

Criminal mischief was reported at Rent A Center,

1700 N. Hobart. A front door window valued at \$350 was shattered.

Criminal mischief was reported at Utility Oil, 501 W. Brown. Two windows with total value of \$500 were shot.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 700 block of West Brown. Three large plate glass windows valued at \$500 each were shot out.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 1200 block of North Hobart.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 1000 block of North Sumner.

One alarm was reported. Theft was reported in the 500 block of West Brown. At least one arrest was made in connection with the incident.

Burglary was reported in the 2600 block of Chestnut. A necklace, pendant and \$17 in cash were taken. Estimated value of loss is \$5,017.

Burglary was reported in the 300 block of North Christy.

Burglary was reported in the 700 block of East 14th. Taken were a surround sound system, numerous DVD movies, a remote control toy vehicle and a color monitor. Estimated value of loss is \$900.

Burglary was reported at Pampa High School, 100 block of Randy Matson. The concession was rummaged through and miscellaneous products were taken.

Sunday, Jan. 6

Sixteen traffic stops were made. One stop at the intersection of Foster and Gray streets resulted in at least one arrest.

A vehicle accident was reported in the 1600 block

of North Hobart.

Animal control officers made stops concerning animals in the 500 block of North Somerville, the 100 block of South Faulkner, the 1200 block of Finley, the 1000 block of Huff Road, the 800 block of North Dwight, the 2300 block of Fir and the 500 block of Perry.

Welfare checks were made in the 1100 block of Terrace and the 200 block of Tyng.

Suspicious person calls were received from the 600 block of West Foster and the 600 block of West Crawford.

Silent/abusive 911 calls were received from the 500 block of East Foster and the 2100 block of Aspen.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 800 block of Beryl, on two occasions in the 800 block of South Barnes, the 1000 block of North Sumner and the 1600 block of West Somerville. The incident in the 1000 block of North Sumner involved a shattered window valued at \$30.

Harassment was reported in the 400 block of North Cuyler.

Criminal mischief was reported at Allsup's, 140 S. Starkweather. A window was shoe-polished with

gang writing.

Criminal mischief was reported at Meaker Appliance, 2008 N. Hobart. Glass valued at \$500 was shot out with a BB gun.

Domestic disturbances were reported in the 1100 block of Terrace and the 1900 block of North Christy. One alarm was reported.

Theft was reported in the 1000 block of Neel Road. A wallet was taken from a residence.

Theft was reported in the

600 block of North Wells.

Monday, Jan. 7

Five traffic stops were made.

A vehicle accident was reported in the 2600 block of West Kentucky.

Agency assistance was rendered on Highway 60.

Suspicious person calls were received from the intersection of Brown and Reid streets, the 1500 block of North Hobart and the 1200 block of North Hobart.

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Viewpoints

What is the deal with the writer's strike anyway?

For over two months now, the Writers Guild of America has been on strike, and as viewers, I think we have all seen the effects. I don't know exactly how large strikes like this operate, and I don't know how they come about projecting an end date for a strike, but they say it is expected to be resolved sometime in June.

In the meantime, I think that these greedy network executives need to take the time to evaluate all of their writers and figure out who deserves a raise and who does not. For that, I am here to offer my assistance.

First of all, whoever created Kenneth on 30 Rock is a genius. The character shares

a creepy resemblance to the 2004 vice presidential candidate, John Edwards. From everything to his hair and southern accent, right down to his cheesy grin, they have everything in common. There is no way that Kenneth is not modeled after the two-time presidential hopeful. It's fun and easy to imagine Kenneth as actually being John Edwards, getting way too excited about meeting Jerry Seinfeld in an elevator and throwing lame birthday parties. The writer who developed Kenneth, whoever he or she may be, without a doubt deserves a raise.

David Letterman's writers definitely do not deserve a

raise. For years, Letterman and his creepy goblin sidekick, Paul Shaffer have been spitting out jokes that seem only funny to themselves, and it looks like they're going to be around for much longer after Letterman recently signed another extended contract. When his writers return, they should think about giving Shaffer less speaking parts or just find Letterman a new sidekick. Maybe somebody like Slash from Guns N' Roses, or Omarosa from the

Apprentice - both of them seem to have really been out of work lately, anyway.

Somebody else who definitely needs a raise is whoever wrote the last episode of Desperate Housewives. The show has been boring and soap opera-ish for way too long, and I never was able to watch a full episode until

they brought in action in the form of a tornado. It may be a diversion from dwindling plotlines, or it may be a desperate way to get the attention of guys like me. Either way, these writers threw

death and destruction in the mix with good-looking middle-aged women, and even a guy getting stabbed through the chest with a picket fence. That was cool!

The writers at Saturday Night Live most certainly do not deserve a raise. Ever since this decade's greats such as Will Ferrell, Tina Fey and Tracy Morgan have moved on to bigger and better things, the show has been struggling to make people laugh. If the casting directors thought that bringing in Keenan of 90s Nickelodeon fame would be a good idea, they were wrong. The political humor lacks humor overall, flies right over most peoples' heads, and is lucky

to draw out a moderate chuckle. I do have to give some credit to Andy Samberg, though, mainly for his Christmas video, the title for which I shouldn't write, that took over YouTube last year.

In closing, I would like to say I support the writer's strike. These people deserve to get paid for their hard work, and these network executives will have to put out a little bit if they want them back. But most of all, we want Conan O'Brien to stop spinning his wedding ring on his desk to kill time and start telling jokes. Bring back the writers!

Jordan Reagan

Sports Editor



Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Jan. 7, the seventh day of 2008. There are 359 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 7, 1789, the first U.S. presidential election was held. Americans voted for electors who, a month later, chose George Washington to be the nation's first president.

On this date:

In 1608, an accidental fire devastated the Jamestown settlement in the Virginia Colony.

In 1610, astronomer Galileo Galilei began observing three of Jupiter's moons.

In 1800, the 13th president of the United States, Millard Fillmore, was born in Summerhill, N.Y.

In 1904, the Marconi International Marine Communication Co. of London announced that the telegraphed letters "CQD" would serve as a maritime distress call (it was later replaced by "SOS").

In 1927, commercial transatlantic telephone service was inaugurated between New York and London.

In 1942, the Japanese siege of Bataan began during World War II.

In 1953, President Truman announced to Congress that the United

States had developed a hydrogen bomb.

In 1972, Lewis F. Powell Jr. and William H. Rehnquist were sworn in as the 99th and 100th members of the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 1989, Emperor Hirohito of Japan died in Tokyo at age 87; he was succeeded by his son, Crown Prince Akihito.

In 2006, Jill Carroll, a freelance journalist for The Christian Science Monitor, was kidnapped and her interpreter shot dead in one of Baghdad's most dangerous Sunni Arab neighborhoods. (Carroll was freed almost three months later.)

Ten years ago: Convicted Oklahoma City bombing conspirator Terry Nichols escaped the death penalty when a jury deadlocked over his punishment. The government of Canada apologized for past acts of oppression against the country's native peoples.

Five years ago: President George W. Bush unveiled his \$674 billion economic expansion plan. Police in London announced they had found traces of the deadly poison ricin in a north London apartment and arrested six men in connection with the virulent toxin that had been linked to al-Qaida terrorists and Iraq.

'Whether women are better than men I cannot say — but I can say they are certainly no worse.'

— Golda Meir
Israeli prime minister
(1898-1978)



No conflicts of interest to declare for year

This is my end-of-the-year reveal-all column in which I come clean about my conflicts of interest. Trouble is, I don't have any.

All income comes from the sales of the column, pension, Social Security and, now that the Internal Revenue Service is forcing me to withdraw some of the money, my rollover retirement kitty.

I am a member of only one organization, the Sons of Confederate Veterans. I am registered as a Democrat because I dislike the hypocrisy of the Republicans, who talk conservative and vote liberal. Truth is, though, I can think of only a very few Democrats I would gladly vote for. As Huey Long once said, the Republicans skin you from the top down, and the Democrats skin you from the bottom up.

You can describe me as a Jeffersonian Democrat. I

believe the Constitution is a contract between the states and the federal government, not some rubbery so-called living document. You don't amend a contract by interpretation. That great document is written in such plain English, only an idiot or a dishonest lawyer could misinterpret it.

Unfortunately, in modern times, as a Yankee judge put it, the Constitution means what the court says it means. I

always include in my prayers a request for a Congress of men and women intelligent and courageous enough to apply the whip of impeachment to federal judges who usurp their authority. So far, no answer has come from the direction of heaven. I strongly suspect

God thinks we should clean up the mess we created.

Like George Washington, I believe in a noninterventionist foreign policy. We have no legal or moral right to tell other sovereign nations how they should conduct themselves. Contrary to the widespread delusion, the American president is not the ruler of the world, for which, I'm sure, the world is grateful, given the ability of the present White

House occupant. A patriot is a person who loves the land and the people and is loyal to the Constitution. Patriots are not those who blindly click their heels and salute whatever current politician temporarily occupies the office. Such heel-clickers are generally

described as having the makings of a fascist, but a kinder description is that they are people who have misplaced their faith. As for the column, I have always tried to tell the truth as best I can determine it at the time of the writing. Sometimes I've been wrong. I don't pretend to be omniscient. I don't mind when people disagree. Reality will eventually settle all disputes. That's one of the advantages of reading old books. With hindsight, you can tell who was right and who was wrong.

My purpose is to stimulate people to think about important issues. I fear apathy may one day do us in. The Founding Fathers did us no favor when they handed us the burden of self-government. It's hard work trying to keep informed and to think clearly about public

See REESE, Page 8

Charley Reese
Columnist



House occupant.

A patriot is a person who loves the land and the people and is loyal to the Constitution. Patriots are not those who blindly click their heels and salute whatever current politician temporarily occupies the office. Such heel-clickers are generally

Texas Thoughts

By The Associated Press

A sample of editorial opinion around Texas:

in Dec. 30

Fort Worth Star-Telegram on school finance plans in Texas:

Prediction: In 2008, Texans will discover that their state still hasn't found a good public school finance plan.

This much is known already: In November, along with the election for president and other national and state political offices, many Texans will face a vote on increasing their local school property taxes.

Candidates in the March party primaries, as well as people running for school board posts in May's local elections and those seeking legislative seats

in November, know full well that these tax elections are coming. The bold ones will be talking about it as a campaign issue.

School districts don't have much choice. Here's what they face:

Changes to the school finance system that the Legislature adopted in 2006 in special session froze per-pupil revenue at 2006 levels, except for special allocations for high school programs and for teacher pay.

Lawmakers cut districts' maintenance and operations property tax rates by a third. To make up for the revenue reduction, they replaced that money dollar-for-dollar with state funds.

They allowed school boards to then raise their tax rates by only 4 cents for each \$100 in taxable property value.

Beyond that, they required districts to seek voter approval for further increases.

Now, according to figures compiled by Moak, Casey & Associates, an Austin consulting firm known for its expertise in school finance, 95 percent of Texas school districts have added those 4 cents to their tax rates.

This summer, when school districts put together their budgets for the 2008-09 school year, they'll find that rising costs have pushed their need for revenue beyond what those pennies will provide, and they'll have to turn to voters to set a higher rate.

A few districts already have faced that choice. This past fall and winter,

See SCHOOL, Page 8

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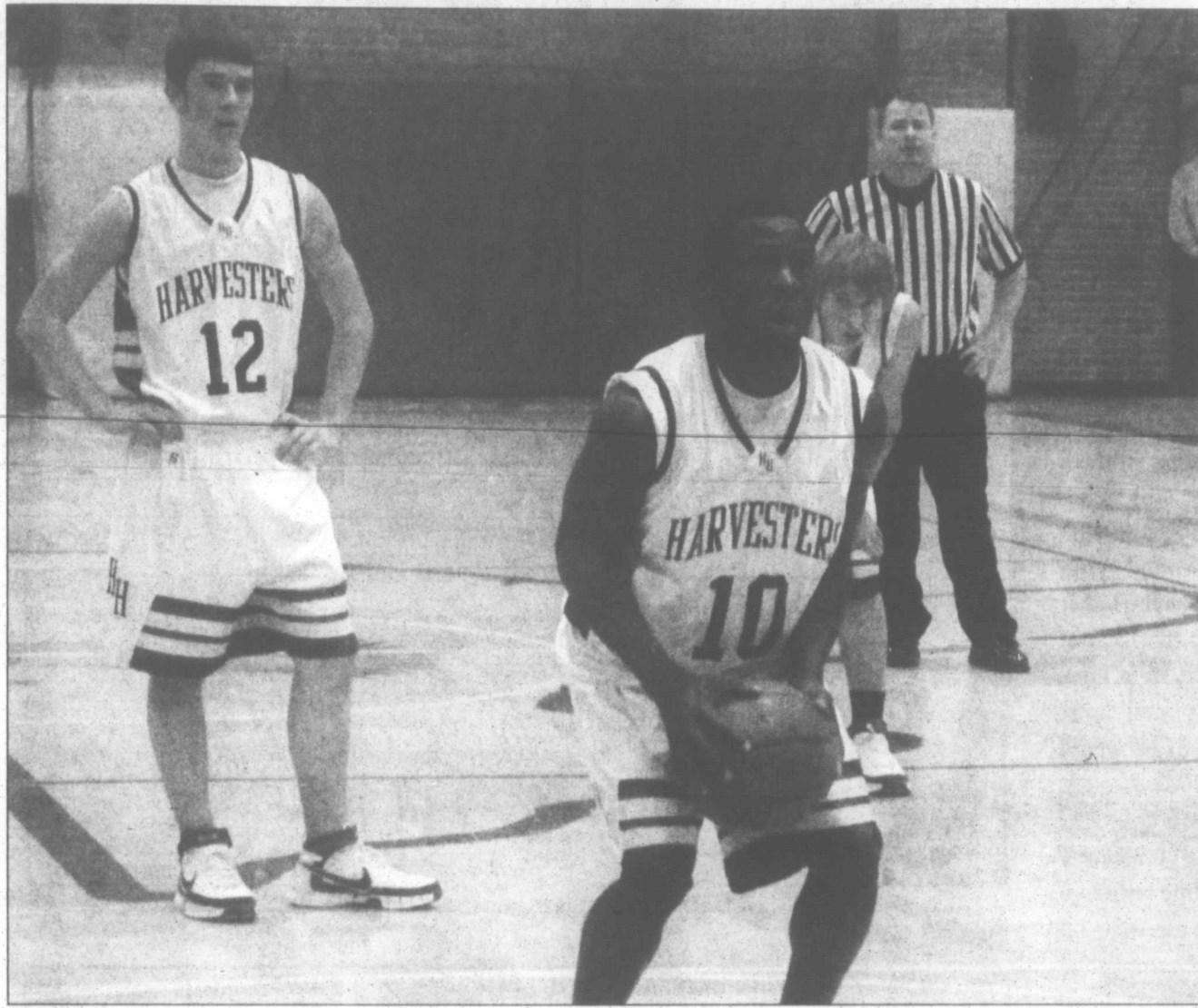
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Sports

Free Throw



Pampa News photo by JORDAN REAGAN

Pampa senior Shavious Kelley shoots a free throw during Saturday night's game against the Tascosa Rebels at McNeely Field House. Kelley was among the leading scorers against the Rebels with 10 points Saturday.

Harvesters lose by one to Tascosa

By JORDAN REAGAN
Sports Editor

For the second time this season, the Pampa Harvesters have suffered a painful one-point loss - this time, in Saturday's game against the Tascosa Rebels.

Pampa saw itself behind on the scoreboard from the get-go, but managed to work its way into a comeback that fell short at the last minute as Tascosa won the game, 60-59.

The Rebels opened the game with a dominating first-quarter lead over the Harvesters at 15-8, but Pampa upped its game in the second quarter as they scored 16 points to Tascosa's 15 to go into halftime behind 30-24.

The Harvesters did more to close

the gap in the third quarter as they outscored Tascosa 18-13 to go into the fourth quarter behind by only one point, 43-42.

That one point is what won the game for the Rebels as a last-minute free throw put Tascosa ahead 60-57 with seconds remaining.

The Harvesters, with a chance to tie the game with a three-point shot, hit a basket for two just before the final buzzer sounded, and the Rebels claimed a 60-59 victory.

The Harvesters, who now stand with a record of 9-11, were led by sophomore Alex

Clendening Saturday night, who scored 14 points against the Tascosa Rebels.

Senior Mark Stone had 13 points on the game, and senior Shavious Kelley had 10.

Pampa will hit the court again Friday as they travel to Palo Duro to take on the Dons in their district opener.

JV girls defeat Demonettes in district opener Friday

By JORDAN REAGAN
Sports Editor

The Pampa JV girls followed the varsity girls' loss Friday with a hard-earned 39-35 win over the Dumas Demonettes.

The JV girls, who currently stand with a record of 10-6 on the season, were led by Sam Pearson with nine points, Taryn Eubank and Ashley Holland with eight points each and Ashley Facio with seven points.

Holland had six rebounds on the game, and Aubrei Dowdy had four.

The Lady Harvesters found

themselves barely behind Dumas going into halftime, with the score at 20-19.

The teams were tied at 30-30 by the end of the third quarter, which led to an intense final period.

Tough defense on Pampa's side proved valuable when the Lady Harvesters outscored the Demonettes 9-5 in the fourth quarter to claim a 39-35 victory.

Now with a record of 1-0 in district, the JV girls will play again Tuesday in hopes of continuing their district success against Caprock in Pampa.

MEDICAL ALERT

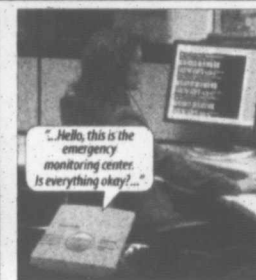
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Optimist club boys basketball tryouts to begin this evening

Registration and tryouts for Pampa Optimist Boys' Basketball for boys in the third, fourth, fifth and sixth grades begins today from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in the Optimist Gym. Registration and tryouts will continue at the same time on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

"We have coaches for all six teams for our third and fourth grade division," said Commissioner Chris Engle. "We need coaches for the fifth and sixth grade boys."

The playing fee is \$45. Practices are scheduled to begin next week with the first games scheduled for the week of January 28.

"If we do not get enough coaches for all of the boys in the fifth and sixth grades, we will assign no more than 10 per team and put the rest of the sign-ups on a waiting list," Engle said. "We are trying to limit our teams to eight each to give the boys more playing time."

A coaching clinic by Pampa Harvester basketball coaches Dustin Miller and Jason Farmer was held Sunday. The coaches gave ideas for games and drills to make practices fun and challenging.

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

Jones leaving Hawaii for SMU

By The Associated Press

June Jones is giving up the paradise of Hawaii for the daunting task of trying to pull SMU back to respectability.

Despite an emotional plea from Hawaii — from Warriors fans all the way to the governor — Jones decided Monday it was time to head back to the mainland. He has agreed to a 5-year deal with SMU which will pay him about \$2 million per year, agent Leigh Steinberg said.

It was an emotional decision for Jones, who was touched by the outpouring of support from Hawaii fans — including Gov. Linda Lingle, but was ultimately lured away by SMU's facilities and bigger budget. Jones called Hawaii officials this morning to tell them of his decision.

Why hasn't anyone told us about the problem with some flea and tick products?

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Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I have two adult sons living at home, ages 22 and 24. Both are working. I have recently retired, and my income has become half of what it was before. I told my sons that if they are to continue living here, they must pay room and board of \$30 a week or find a place to live with the amenities they have here. They are now ranting and raving and calling me a bad mother. Am I being unreasonable? I feel I have provided my sons with a good life, and it is now time for them to take some responsibility for their own support. It's time to grow up. Am I wrong? My oldest son says he refuses to help me pay my mortgage! I told him to either pay the \$120 a month or try to find a cheaper place to live. Any thoughts on this? — **STRESSED-OUT MOM, LAKE VIEW, N.Y.**

DEAR STRESSED OUT: You're making perfect sense to me. If your older boy was not centered so much on himself and his wants (notice, I didn't say "needs"), he would realize that you have made him a generous offer. Because of your diminished income, of COURSE there is no question that your sons should contribute to the household expenses. It's possible they won't realize what a good deal they've been having until they try to match it in the real world. Stand your ground, Mom, and don't take any back talk.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been married four years. During that time we have had three children. Our youngest was born three months ago with various medical problems including heart defects, enlarged kidneys, hearing problems and Down syndrome. To top it off, I have recently been diagnosed with cancer. I start radiation and chemo next month. I am stressed to say the least, and being intimate with my husband right now is at the bottom of my list of things I need to do. My husband is having a problem understanding

why I am not interested in sex. He takes it personally when I don't accept his advances. I love him very much, and I'm grateful for everything he does for me and the kids, but right now I have no interest in sex. How can I get through to him without hurting his feelings? And how do I stop the advances so I don't feel so guilty? — **STRESSED IN WISCONSIN**

DEAR STRESSED: Excuse me? You've had three children in four years, you're caring for a newborn with physical and developmental disabilities and you're beginning treatment for a life-threatening illness. Frankly, I'm surprised you are still standing. If necessary, drag your spouse to your OB/GYN, your pediatrician and your oncologist. Your husband may be the father of three, but he needs to learn the facts of life -- the first of which is that right now, you are physically and emotionally distracted and unable to perform as he would wish.

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I recently attended a lovely party at a home with two baby grand pianos. One of the guests -- I'll call her "Sophie" -- is an accomplished pianist, and she dearly wanted to sit down and play. We encouraged her but she refused, stating that the host and hostess might not appreciate having their party interrupted. Should Sophie have asked permission, or would that have created undue pressure on the hostess? — **DAVID IN CUPERTINO, CALIF.**

DEAR DAVID: It depends on the hosts. Some would welcome it; others might not. Sophie was correct to refrain from playing the piano without being asked to. It could have, indeed, been disruptive. And if either (or both) of the hosts is a serious musician, many musicians prefer that their instruments not be played by someone else.

For Better Or For Worse



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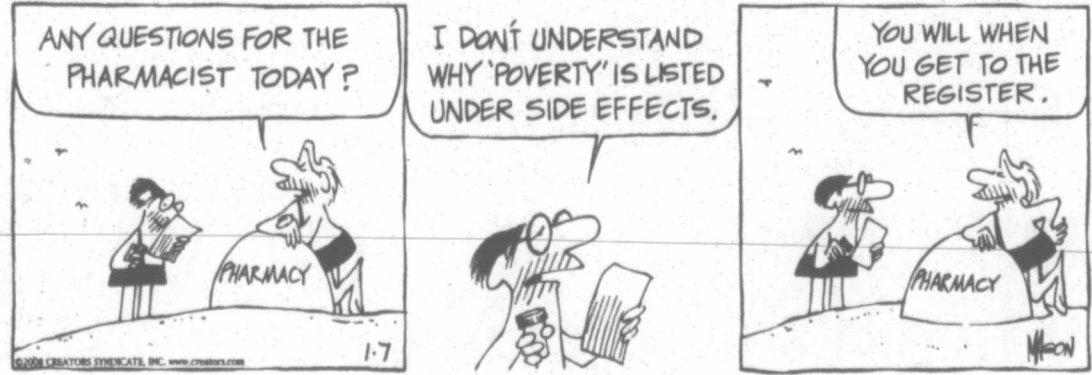
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Marvin



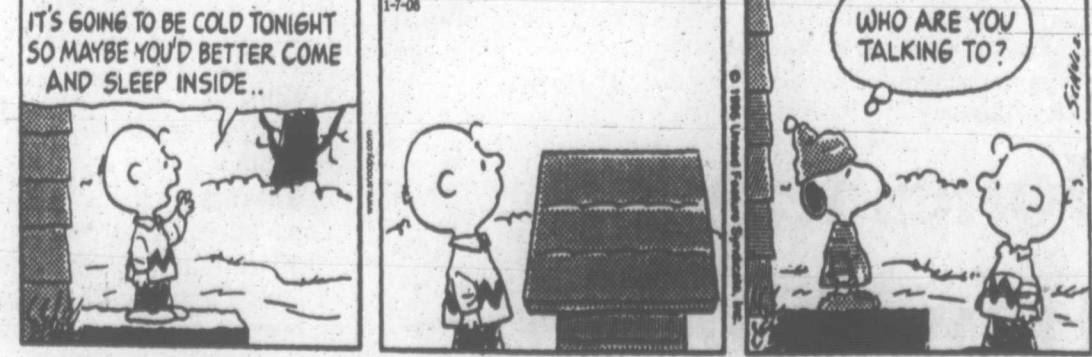
B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 40 Fresh

1 Historian's 41 Bothers subject

5 Gorillas, e.g.

9 Singer

McLachlan

10 Lends a hand

12 "Gladia- tor" star

13 Isolated

14 Penny- making org.

16 Soup veggie

17 Soup veggie

18 Pough- keepsie college

21 Commer- cials

22 Deliber- ately

offended

23 Super- market section

24 Cold

26 Mountain pass

29 Deceived

30 Igloo shape

31 -- roll (doing well)

32 Cheap

34 Outfit

37 Laughable

38 Alarm's trigger

39 Concen- trate

DOWN

1 Analyzed sentences

2 Scents

3 Ushered an arriv- ing guest

4 Later

5 Cry of insight

6 Vigor

7 Go by

8 Butter or jam

9 Diver's gear

11 Rating unit

15 Show trout

19 Ethereal

20 Pig's place

22 Shaker

23 Performed

24 The sights

25 Patricia of

26 Retreat

27 Fairly good grade

28 "For -- out- put sake!"

29 Sawmill

30 Gift

33 High- tech café

35 Hawaiian instrument

36 Church seat

37 "You're the cook"

38 "You're the cook"

39 "You're the cook"

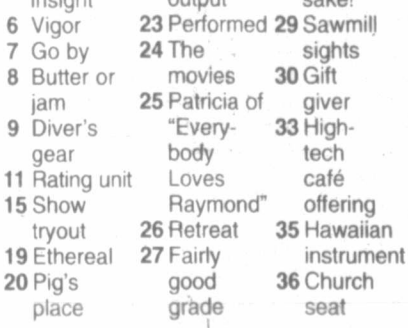
40 Fresh

41 Bothers subject

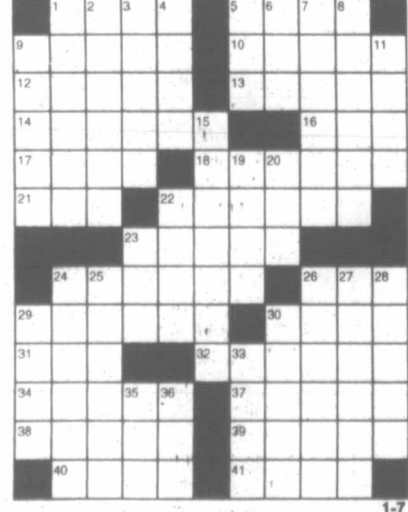
42 "You're the cook"



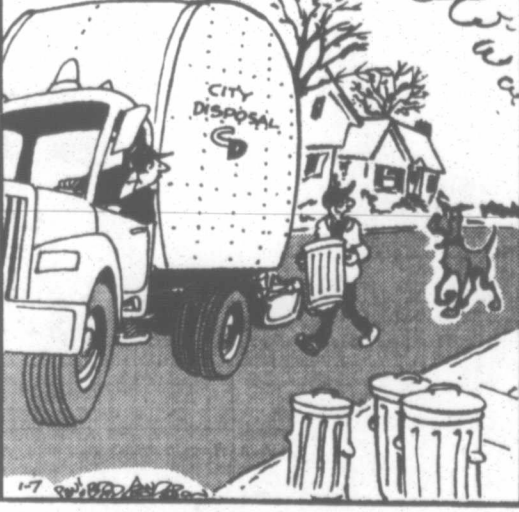
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Marmaduke



The Family Circus

By Bil Keane



"There's none in mine. Maybe I was a freebie."

Flo & Friends



3 Personal

ADOPT loving FT M winter, bea mer award es paid. Judy & Hu

4 Not Res

AS of this 2008 1, D land, am sponsible t than those me.Signed land.

5 Special

ADVERTI al to be Pampa Ne placed thro pa News O

10 Lost/F

LOST Br Bulldog. K her. Please

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4 Not Respon.

AS of this date January 4, 2008 I, David H. Kirkland, am no longer responsible for bills other than those incurred by me. Signed David H. Kirkland.

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12018 White-Acres	\$219,900	4/3/4 2924 SF/GCAD
2325 Beech	\$211,999	3/2.75/2 - 2993 SF/GCAD
2336 Duncan	\$195,000	3/3/2 - 2778 SF/GCAD
2011 Mary Ellen	\$169,500	3/2.5/2 - 2730 SF/GCAD
101 E. 26th	\$158,900	3/1.75/2 - 2687 SF/GCAD
1228 Charles	\$145,000	3/1.75/2 - 2912 SF/GCAD
1810 Beech Ln	\$139,900	3/1.75/2 - 2014 SF/GCAD
2228 Mary Ellen	\$134,000	3/1.75/1 - 2021 SF/GCAD
2325 Fir St	\$126,500	3/2/2 - 1727 SF/GCAD
1505 Willetton	\$125,000	4/2/1 - 2277 SF/GCAD
1532 N. Christy	\$117,500	3/1.75/2 - 1450 SF/GCAD
2100 Christine	\$89,500	4/1.5/2 - 1703 SF/GCAD
2200 Duncan	\$82,000	4/1.5/2 - 1912 SF/GCAD
1420 Hamilton	\$59,900	4/2/1 - 1377 SF/GCAD
2231 Mary Ellen	\$59,900	3/1.1/cpt - 1386 SF/GCAD
1125 Duncan	\$53,000	3/2/1 - 1828 SF/Ownr.
525 Powell	\$50,000	2/1/1 - 927 SF/GCAD
1324 Terrace	\$44,750	2/1/1 - 954 SF/GCAD
1432 N. Hamilton	\$37,000	3/1/1/cpt - 1043 SF/GCAD

LAMAR SCHOOL DISTRICT South West

817 N. Christy	\$70,000	3/1.75/0 - 1366 SF/GCAD
616 N. Faulkner	\$19,900	2/1/0 - 728 SF/GCAD

TRAVIS SCHOOL DISTRICT West and North West

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1613 N. Dwight	\$105,000	3/2/2 - 1534 SF/GCAD
1947 N. Nelson	\$95,000	4/1.75/1 - 1656 SF/GCAD
1012 Sierra	\$94,900	3/2/2 - 1317 SF/GCAD
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1117 Willow	\$69,900	3/1.5/1 - 1112 SF/GCAD
1527 N. Sumner	\$65,000	3/1.75/2 - 1028 SF/GCAD
1432 N. Hamilton	\$39,000	3/1/1 cpt - 1043 SF/GCAD

WILSON SCHOOL DISTRICT South East

533 Powell St	\$62,500	3/1/2 - 1372 SF/GCAD
620 Red Deer	\$59,900	3/1.75/0 - 1215 SF/GCAD
725 N. Bradley	\$52,000	2/1/2 - 900 SF/GCAD
1212 Darby	\$37,000	3/1/1 - 877 SF/GCAD
107 Warren	\$27,000	2/1/1 - 852 SF/GCAD
1329 Terrace	\$25,000	2/1/1 - 954 SF/GCAD

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207, 5, 1-Swift, White Deer	\$50,000Church & 2 Small Houses
Hwy 152, Mobeetle	\$12,0003 Acres 1 Mile E. of Oasis Rest.

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Six snowmobilers missing in Colorado mountains, all alive

CONEJOS, Colo. (AP) — Six snowmobilers missing in the snowy Colorado mountains called for help Monday and reported they were hungry but alive, authorities said.

Crews were on their way to meet the six, who are all from New Mexico, said Barbara Smith, a spokeswoman for the Conejos County Sheriff's Department.

The snowmobilers called 911

from an isolated and snowbound train station and said they were cold but otherwise all right, Smith said. They had been missing since Friday amid heavy snow in the area.

The snowmobilers had been missing near 10,222-foot Cumbres Pass just north of the Colorado-New Mexico border. The area is about 200 miles south of Denver and 60 miles northwest of Taos,

N.M.

The search had been hindered by heavy snow and bad roads. As much as 4 feet of snow fell in the area since Friday, the National Weather Service said.

Smith said they took refuge at Osier Station, a small wooden building that serves as summertime stop on the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad, a tourist line.

The snowmobilers were Jason

Groen, 36, his wife, Shannon, 31, and daughter, Aspen, 14, said Betty Groen, Jason's stepmother. Groen said they were snowmobiling with Mike Martin, one of Groen's employees, his wife, Missy, and their son, Jessie, 13. The families had left on a snowmobile trip Friday morning and expected to be back that evening, Betty Groen said.

Two skiers remained missing

Monday. Searchers in a helicopter and on snowmobiles took advantage of a break in the weather to resume looking for them at Wolf Creek Pass, about 40 miles northwest of Cumbres Pass.

The men, missing since Saturday, were in their mid-20s and their car had New Mexico license plates, but their names had not been released.

Texas authorities find a body and a gruesome scene at home

TYLER, Texas (AP) — A man who told a 911 operator he killed his girlfriend and cooked parts of her body faces a capital murder charge, authorities said.

Deputies responding to the 911 call found a gruesome scene: a human ear boiling in a pot on a stovetop and a hunk of flesh on a fork sitting atop a plate on the kitchen table.

Authorities believe the man arrested in the death of his 21-year-old girlfriend cooked parts of her body and may have tried to eat them — actions they said he described to them in the emergency call that led them to the grisly discovery.

Christopher Lee McCuin, 25, was scheduled to be arraigned Monday on a capital murder charge in the death of Jana Shearer. He was in solitary confinement at a jail on a \$2 million bond Sunday night and did not have an attorney, officials said.

Authorities say it is unclear whether McCuin consumed any part of the woman's body.

"We cannot prove that he did," Smith

County Sheriff J.B. Smith said Sunday. "He was either going to, had been or led us to think that he was doing it."

McCuin is also the suspect in early Saturday's stabbing of a man described as his estranged wife's boyfriend, Smith said.

McCuin has a criminal record that includes driving while intoxicated and aggravated assault with a deadly weapon charges. When he was arrested, McCuin had an outstanding felony retaliation warrant.

Smith said McCuin was known to authorities and had "a history of violence," including assaulting his estranged wife, his girlfriend and his sister.

Officials believe the horrific chain of events began when Shearer was taken by McCuin from her home late Friday and killed.

Smith said McCuin then drove to his estranged wife's home, where he stabbed his wife's boyfriend, William Veasley, 42. Veasley was in intensive care Sunday night.

McCuin was still in that home when

deputies arrived, but he jumped into his car and escaped after a short chase, Smith said. "We did not know at the time that he had murdered anyone," Smith said. "We thought it was a disturbance or an assault."

McCuin wasn't seen again until Saturday morning, when he arrived at the home he shared with his mother and called her into the garage so she could "come see what he had done," Smith said.

His mother and her boyfriend saw the remains of Shearer, authorities said. McCuin's mother and her boyfriend fled the home and flagged down a police officer. McCuin dialed 911 after they left and told an emergency dispatcher he had killed Shearer and was boiling her body parts, Smith said.

When deputies arrived, McCuin barricaded himself in the home for a short time before coming out. After he emerged, a tactical team entered and found Shearer's body, Sgt. Gary Middleton said. They also found the grisly scene in the kitchen.

After McCuin was arrested and placed in the back of a patrol car, he kicked out the vehicle's side window, then was put in additional restraints, Middleton said.

Shearer appeared to have died from blunt trauma to her head, Smith said.

Detectives were trying to determine where the killing happened. They think McCuin drove his truck to his mother's home with the dead woman in the back seat of his extended-cab pickup, Smith said.

High Plains Public Radio plans concert

AMARILLO — High Plains Public Radio's first Living Room Concert of 2008 will take place in the downtown Amarillo studios, featuring singer/songwriters Kate and Bill Isles. The concert is set for 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 10, at High Plains Public Radio studio in downtown Amarillo.

Bill Isles is one of the most highly-respected singer/songwriters in the Minnesota acoustic scene and has begun to get national and international attention. Kate Isles was a closet singer/songwriter when she came to a CD release concert for Bill's first CD, "Weightless," and they've been together ever since. Their upcoming duet album is "Matching Baggage."

Though the concert will begin at 7:30, the doors will open at 7.

Refreshments will be served.

High Plains Public Radio provides news, music and information programming to the people of the high plains region. An affiliate of National Public Radio, BBC, American Public Media and Public Radio International, HPPR offers a broad spectrum of news, music and information program-

ming.

Music on HPPR includes everything from classical to western swing and blues to world music. News coverage includes award-winning programs from NPR, overnight news from the BBC, and coverage of regional issues and events.

Entertainment and information programs such as "A Prairie Home Companion with Garrison Keillor," "The Thomas Jefferson Hour," "This American Life," "Studio 360," "Car Talk" and "Michael Feldman's Whad, Ya Know?" round out a full programming schedule.

The bulk of HPPR funding comes from contributions of listener-members.

High Plains Public Radio is heard in the Texas Panhandle on KJJP 105.7 FM in Amarillo, KTOT 89.5 FM in Spearman, Perryton, Pampa, Borger, Canadian and Dumas and KTXP 91.5 FM in Bushland.

The station is also available on translators 94.9 FM in Amarillo and at 91.3 FM in Washburn, Claude and Panhandle. High Plains Public Radio streams programming 24 hours a day at www.hppr.org.

Reese

Continued from Page 4

issues.

I don't carry water for anyone — not for a political party or even for conservatives. Labels like "conservative" and "liberal" have for all practical purposes lost their meanings, though we keep using them for lack of a better description.

Just remember that it's become a very approximate description. If William Kristol, editor of the Weekly Standard, is a conservative, then I'm not.

But we have a lot to do and better things to do than quibble over labels. Our great country is not as good as it can be. We know what the problems are, and there are enough of them that everyone can find one to tackle based on his or her interests and talents. May the new year bring us all closer together.

—Write to Charley Reese at P.O. Box 2446, Orlando, FL 32802.

School

Continued from Page 4

120 districts held elections for voter permission to raise their taxes — some to the maximum \$1.17 allowed under the new law for each \$100 in taxable value. Voters approved those requests in 77 percent of the districts.

At the same time, voters also approved 75 percent of the school bond elections held across the state, which also pushes up district property taxes.

For the most part, voters seem willing to raise taxes for their local schools, even if many of those people whom they elected to represent them in Austin are trying to limit tax increases.

Why don't districts cut expenses?

They already have. The Moak, Casey study shows that school districts spent an average of \$6,363 per student for maintenance

and operations in 2002-03. To keep pace with inflation, they would be spending \$941 per student more than that in 2008-09. The state has provided an increase of only \$329 per student for general spending purposes.

The state also has provided another \$133 per student that is restricted for use on high school programs and teacher pay increases. Adding that money to the total still puts the districts \$479 per student short of keeping up with inflation.

That's a lot of money. For the state's 1,000-plus school districts, it adds up to a shortage of more than \$2 billion.

The bottom line is that districts are forced to turn to higher taxes to keep up.

Aren't higher property values a windfall for schools?

No. Remember that per-student revenue is frozen at 2006 levels.

It's true that increased property values cause homeowners to pay higher taxes to their school dis-

tricts. But the revenue freeze that the Legislature adopted in 2006 means that a district's increased revenue from taxpayers is matched by an equal reduction in revenue from the state.

In effect, higher property values provide a windfall for the state (and for lawmakers who might want to find other ways to spend that money), but not for school districts.

Again, the only way that districts get more money is if they have more students (and the additional costs that those students bring) or they raise taxes.

Where is all this headed?

The Legislature convenes again at noon Jan. 13, 2009.

If history repeats itself, school funding problems again will result in a court battle. That could last for years, but previous lawsuits have proven to be the only way to get legislators to make substantive changes to school finance. URL: <http://www.star-telegram.com>



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