

Tomorrow's Weather

HIGH
57
LOW
32

See expanded weather on Page 2

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THE PAMPA NEWS

Friday, March 7, 2008

Volume 103 • No. 288

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Bring your old refrigerators & freezers for proper disposal!

School board hears report on construction

By KERRI SMITH
Managing Editor

Pampa Independent School Board members heard reports on CSCOPE Curriculum and construction projects at a special meeting held Thursday evening at Pampa Junior High.

A report was given on how CSCOPE, a computer curriculum system, will benefit the district, teachers and students.

Dr. Ervin Knezek, a director with the CSCOPE project gave a PowerPoint presentation on how CSCOPE gives teachers the

resources they need to make students successful in learning.

"CSCOPE is designed to be used with other resources to provide a curriculum in which students can find success," Knezek said. "This is especially helpful for new teachers who do not have the experience to fall back on when deciding how best to teach their students. This program was implemented in 279 district statewide and served more than 680,000 students last year.

"This curriculum design is based on some of the research from top researchers in the field of education.

It is based on three C's: communication, customization and connections within and across grade levels. The curriculum is based on vertical alignment documents to help teachers choose instructional resources and materials that are aligned with the specified standards."

Knezek went on to explain that CSCOPE gives teachers and districts a way to integrate past work with new materials and to use the best of all of the instructional resources available.

Board members also heard reports on how the construction projects at

the high school and new junior high school are proceeding. Mike Baker from Parkhill, Smith and Cooper said that furniture and color selections have begun for the science and commons area of the high school. He said a few options will be presented to the school board in the near future.

"The MPAC building has been inspected and there were no corrections to make to the work that was done," Baker said. "The only thing left to do on that building is to have

See PISD, Page 3

Pampa News photo contest deadline nears

By KERRI SMITH
Managing Editor

Do you enjoy photography? Do you have some great pictures of family and friends? If so, you need to get your cameras and photos out because the annual Pampa News photo contest is once again under way. The deadline for photo entries is coming up fast, so get those photos taken and turn them in before 5 p.m. March 14, which is just next week.

"The Pride," which is an annual special section that is scheduled to be inserted in The Pampa News on March 31, includes a section titled "Images." This section is devoted to photos of people doing things they love in

Pampa.

The winner that is chosen will receive \$100 in Pampa Bucks and will have their photo published on the cover of the Images section.

This contest is open to all amateur photographers, but the photos must have been taken in Pampa. The photos may show people working, playing, relaxing or celebrating a special occasion. Photos of animals or scenery with no people in them will not be considered for this contest and will not be printed. Entrants are not limited as to the number of photos they may submit.

Entries may be prints or See PHOTOS, Page 3

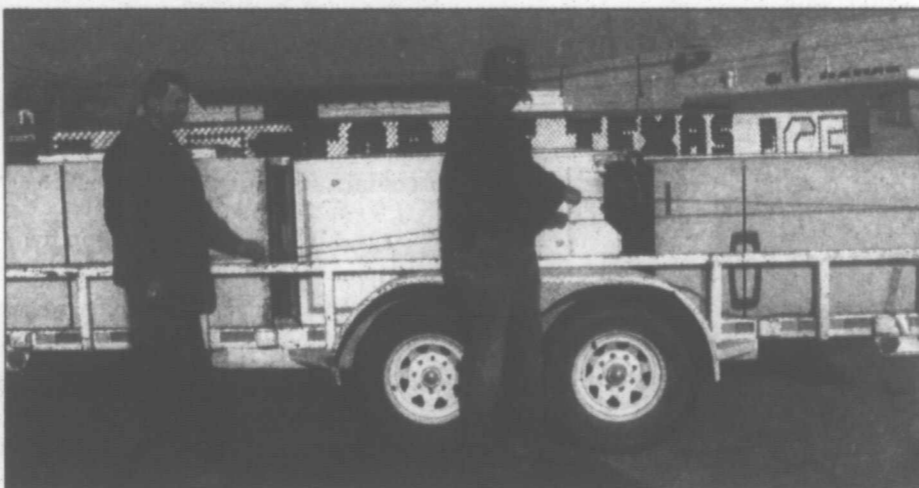
House fire



Pampa News photo by MARILYN POWERS

Six units and 15 personnel from Pampa Fire Department responded to a call at 6:28 a.m. today concerning a structure fire at 1137 Willow Road. The home was unoccupied at the time, according to PFD Capt. Jerry Tomaschik. The one- and one-half-story structure was under renovations at the time of the blaze. The ground floor sustained heavy fire damage, while the attic, which had been converted to living space, received heavy smoke and heat damage, Tomaschik said. The state fire marshal's office has been called to conduct an investigation into the cause of the fire, he said.

Collecting appliances



Pampa News Photo by MARILYN POWERS

Precinct 2 Commissioner Gary Willoughby, left, and Precinct 2 employee James Powell load a trailer with refrigerators that were brought Saturday to Top of Texas Ice during their first monthly collection day for unwanted appliances.

First monthly collection day considered a success

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

The first monthly collection day for unwanted refrigerators, freezers and refrigerated air conditioners was deemed a success by organizers, with 16 units collected for proper disposal, according to Gray County Precinct 2 Commissioner Gary Willoughby.

Top Of Texas Ice initiated the free service after Willoughby began working to clear county roads and right-of-ways of dumped items such as appliances and furniture. Under the

Clean Air Act, appliances with refrigeration units must have the coolant removed and properly disposed of before the appliance can be discarded.

Local appliance and heating and air conditioning companies are licensed to remove the coolant, but charge a fee for their services. Fees range from \$45 to \$65.

Refrigerators, freezers and refrigerated air conditioners, as well as any other units containing coolant, must be drained of

See FRIDGE, Page 3

Notary public seminar set

A seminar for Texas notary publics will be from 1 to 4 p.m. March 13 at the Ambassador Hotel, 3100 I-40 West, in Amarillo.

Topics to be covered during the seminar include notary law and proper record keeping, avoiding official misconduct, administering oaths and acknowledgments, legal procedures and processes of notarization and liability protection practices for notary and

employer. Questions from the audience will also be answered.

Those attending may complete notary applications, pay filing fees and order supplies at the seminar. These costs are not included in the seminar fee.

Cost of attendance may be paid at the door. The seminar is sponsored by the Texas Notary Public Association.

Wild Texas weather

DALLAS (AP) — A light snow fell across parts of Central Texas on Friday morning, a day after a storm system left as much as 9 inches of snow on northern parts of the state and brought a tornado to South Texas.

No one was injured by a twister packing 95 to 105 mph winds in Corpus Christi on Thursday afternoon, but trees

were snapped and several homes were damaged, said Roger Gass, a National Weather Service meteorologist in Corpus Christi.

Meanwhile, motorists found icy conditions on some North Texas roads for the morning commute as 1 to 3 inches of snow was expected Friday

See WEATHER, Page 3

Still Time To Plant Trees!
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Memory Gardens
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at 23rd St. & Price Rd.,
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Fun for the whole family!
Bouncer, egg hunt,
parent egg hunt and prizes.
If inclement weather will be Sunday 10th at 2:00 P.M.

NEXT DAY FORECAST

Saturday



Mostly sunny

Sunday



Partly sunny

Monday



Snow chance

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 57.
Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 32.

Sunday: Partly sunny, with a high near 53.
Sunday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 37.

Monday: A slight chance of snow showers before 8 a.m., then a slight chance of rain and snow showers between 8 a.m. and 9 a.m., then a slight chance of rain showers after 9 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 56. North-northeast wind around 5 mph becoming east-southeast. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.
Monday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 35. Southeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming southwest.

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Stocks

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

| | |
|----------|-------|
| Wheat | 10.88 |
| Milo | 8.82 |
| Corn | 9.71 |
| Soybeans | 12.68 |

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

| | | |
|---------------|-------|-------|
| OXY | 75.56 | +0.10 |
| BP PLC ADR | 64.14 | +0.38 |
| Cabot Corp | 27.28 | -0.05 |
| Celanese | 38.86 | +0.44 |
| Cabot Oil Gas | 49.20 | -1.14 |
| Coca Cola | 58.70 | -0.40 |
| VLO | 53.75 | +0.23 |
| HAL | 38.47 | -0.17 |
| XCEL | 19.6 | -0.04 |

| | | |
|---------------|-------|-------|
| Anadarko | 64.31 | +0.12 |
| XOM | 83.77 | -0.74 |
| Nat'l Oilwell | 61.36 | -1.08 |
| Limited | 14.91 | +0.09 |
| Williams | 35.25 | -0.06 |
| MCD | 52.36 | -0.68 |
| Atmos | 25.74 | -0.13 |
| Pioneer Nat | 47.04 | +0.36 |
| JCP | 43.00 | +0.23 |
| COP | 79.91 | -0.23 |
| SLB | 87.13 | -0.53 |
| Tenneco | 25.58 | +0.54 |
| CNVX | 87.02 | -0.78 |
| Wal-Mart | 50.36 | +0.38 |
| ORKE | 47.06 | -0.31 |

| | |
|------------------|--------|
| New York Gold | 974.30 |
| Silver | 20.23 |
| West Texas Crude | 105.47 |

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Obituaries

Services tomorrow

MCCARTHY, Betty Marie — Memorial services, 1 p.m., 6th & Jackson Church of Christ, Odessa.
WILLIAMS, Tyree — Burial, 3 p.m., Miami Cemetery, Miami.

Emergency Services

Pampa PD

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

Seventeen traffic stops were made. A stop in the 1000 block of Prairie Drive resulted in at least one arrest.

A traffic complaint was received from the intersection of Randy Matson and Duncan streets.

Parking unlawfully was reported in the 500 block of Cook. A vehicle was left parked illegally in the roadway.

A vehicle accident was reported at the intersection of Highways 60 and 70.

Animal control officers made stops concerning animals in the 700 block of Bradley Drive, twice in the 1000 block of Huff Road, the intersection of Alcock Street and Price Road, the 600 block of North Dwight, the 700 block of North Dwight, the 2200 block of Alcock, the 900 block of Denver, the 800 block of Duncan, the 800 block of East Browning and the 400 block of Lowry.

Welfare checks were made in the 2300 block of Primrose and the 500 block of West Brown.

One suicide attempt was reported.

Warrant service was attempted on one occasion and resulted in at least one arrest.

A civil matter was reported in the police department lobby.

Suspicious person calls were received from the intersection of Alcock and Nelson streets, and the intersection of Harvester and Sumner streets.

Suspicious vehicle calls were received from the intersection of Hobart and Cook streets, the 700 block of Scott, the 1000 block of North Christine and the 12000 block of East Frederic.

Silent/abusive 911 calls were received from the 900 block of North Crest and the 1900 block of Lea.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 1900 block of Duncan.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 2100 block of North Faulkner and the 2500 block of Charles.

Disorderly conduct/language was reported in the 2800 block of Perryton Parkway. An arrest was made in connection with the incident.

Possession of drug paraphernalia was reported in the 12000 block of East Frederic. An arrest was made in connection with the incident.

Assault was reported in the 100 block of West 30th.

Forgery was reported in the police department lobby.

Sheriff

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

Thursday, March 6
Jessica Kay Delatorre, 23, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO on a bond surrender for delivery of cocaine.

Dennis Allen Dobyms, 50, of Dumas was arrested by GCSO to serve a 10-day sentence for driving while intoxicated.

Friday, March 7
Gregory Verl Worden, 47, of Pampa was arrested in the 12000 block of East Frederic

by Pampa Police Department for possession of drug paraphernalia.

Kenneth Dale Putman, 25, of Pampa was arrested in the 2100 block of Coffee by PPD on capias pro fines for possession of drug paraphernalia, violation of a city ordinance - no running water and failure to appear.

Fire

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

Wednesday, Feb. 5
10 a.m. — One unit and four personnel responded to Austin Elementary School, 1900 Duncan, on a fire prevention program.

1:58 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the intersection of 23rd and Perryton Parkway on a motor vehicle accident.

8:37 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 100 block of Somerville on a smoke scare.

Thursday, Feb. 6
8:31 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the intersection of Duncan and 23rd on a hazardous material clean-up.

9:30 p.m. — One unit and four personnel responded to the intersection of Highways 60 and 70 on a motor vehicle accident.

9:54 p.m. — One unit and four personnel responded to the 200 block of Tignor on a hazardous material clean-up.

Ambulance

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

Thursday, March 6
7:05 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 300 block of Miami and transported a patient to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

2:52 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 600 block of West and transported a patient to PRMC.

9:54 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 200 block of Tignor and transported a patient(s) to PRMC.

10:45 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transferred a patient(s) to Northwest Texas Hospital in Amarillo.

TEXAS TODAY

Light snow falls in North Texas
DALLAS (AP) — A light snow fell across parts of North Texas on Friday morning, a day after a storm system left as much as 9 inches of snow on northern parts of the state and brought a tornado to South Texas.

No one was injured by a twister packing 95 to 105 mph winds in Corpus Christi on Thursday afternoon, but trees were snapped and several homes were damaged, said Roger Gass, a National Weather Service meteorologist in Corpus Christi.

Meanwhile, motorists found icy conditions on some North Texas roads for the morning commute as 1 to 3 inches of snow was expected Friday morning, said Jessica Schultz, National Weather Service meteorologist in Fort Worth. Temperatures were expected to hover around freezing before warming to at least the 40s in many parts of the region later in the day, she said.

At Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport, officials said that by Friday morning the runways were clear and dry. But they expected to have at least 60 more departures canceled Friday morning because of Thursday's storm, mainly because many aircraft were out of position. As a result of 1 inch of snow falling Thursday afternoon, 500 departures were canceled at the airport and thousands of passengers stranded.

Snow accumulations Thursday ranged from a trace in Dallas to up to 9 inches in Cooke County on the Red River.

Houston district expects to pay millions under 'Robin Hood'
HOUSTON (AP) — The Houston school district expects that for the first time, it will have to pay several million dollars to the state under the so-called "Robin Hood" funding system.

Melinda Garrett, the Houston school district's chief financial officer, said during a school board workshop Thursday that the district will owe an estimated \$3.7 million to the state next year.

That is only a small portion of the district's about \$1.5 billion budget, but school leaders said the funding system is flawed when a big-city district that serves mostly low-income children is forced to give up money.

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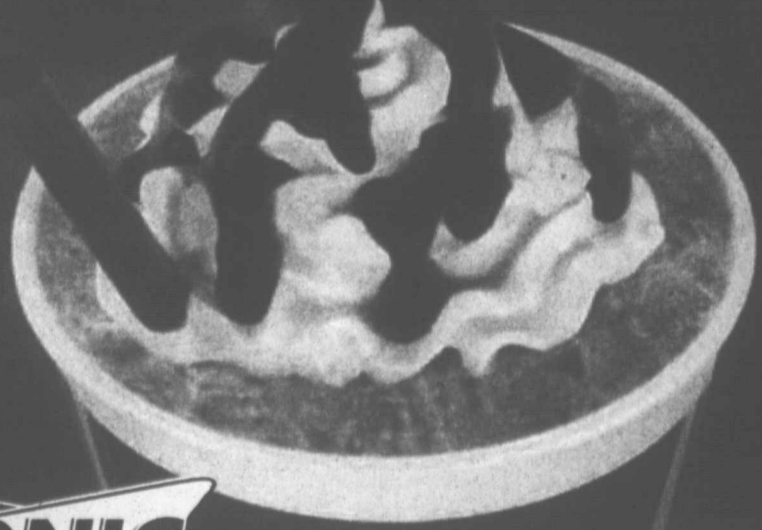
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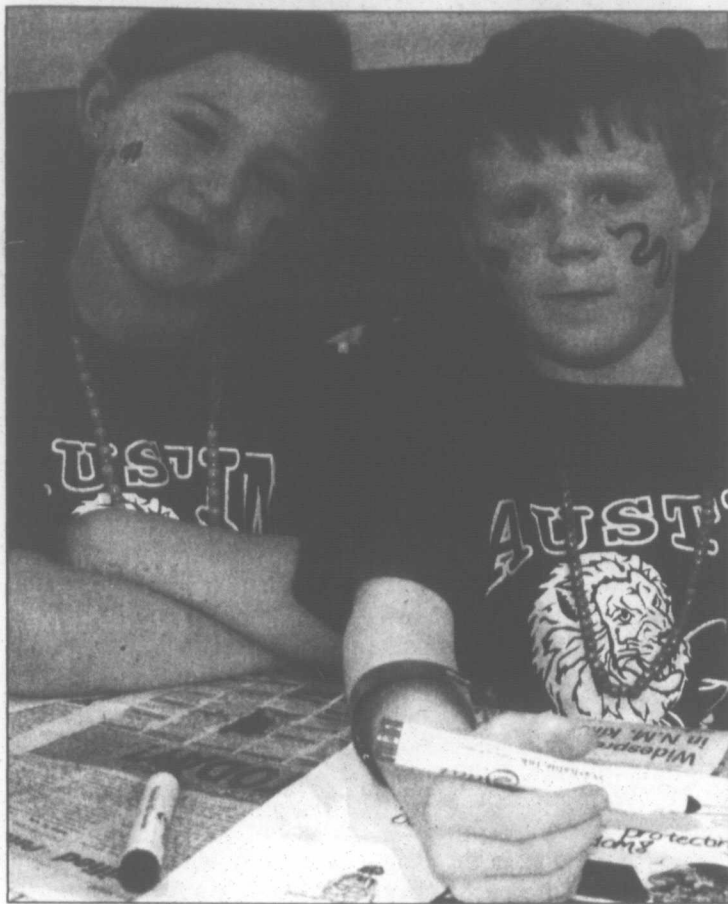


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Writing to troops



Pampa News Photo by KERRI SMITH

Natalie Winborne and Garrison Stevens show off their face painting and write letters to troops overseas during activities at Austin Elementary. Face painting was provided by Pampa High School students.

Photos

Continued from Page 1

digital images burned on a CD in "jpeg" format. These may be mailed or brought by The Pampa News office and dropped off. Photos sent via e-mail will not be considered. Photos submitted on a CD should be of the contest entry only and not of a whole bunch of other pictures.

Each person in the photo must be identified by name

and a brief description of what they are doing in the photo should be included as well. A date and place where the photos were taken should also be included. The photos should be from 2007 or 2008.

If a person other than the person entering the photos in the contest is in any of the pictures, a signed release from each of those persons granting permission to publish their likeness must also accompany the photos, unless they are young children, and in that case the parents of that child must

PISD

Continued from Page 1

the air conditioning tested and balanced and to finish hooking up the fire alarms with the phone company."

Baker reported that trenching is being done on the south side of the high school so workers can install water proofing so water will not leak into the basement. On March 17, a plumber will start working on footing for the new science wing.

Baker also reported that his company is waiting on

the final sealed survey for the property for the new junior high school, just north of town.

"After we receive this final survey, design work will begin with engineers," Baker said. "The time frame we are looking at is approximately two months to get a road built and utilities set up at the site and then probably an additional six months to finish all of the designs. So, it should be about eight months before actual construction on the new junior high school begins."

School board members were concerned that this process seems to be taking so long and wondered if

there was any way to speed up the process. Baker said the process got delayed when site for the new school was changed and engineers could not continue making designs until they knew exactly where the school would be and which direction it would face.

Michael McCall from Western Builders said the actual construction process should take 12-14 months once work has begun. He said they would do everything in their power to speed up that process because it is not in anyone's interest to drag out this construction.

Randy Stephenson, who is overseeing renovations and

construction, gave board members a preliminary report on how much replacement HVAC units may cost for Travis Elementary.

"You can see that our original estimate of \$100,000 for new air conditioning units was not enough," Stephenson said. "This report says that it may cost up to \$250,000 to put new units on Travis Elementary."

More detailed information will be brought back to the board at the next meeting on the HVAC project.

The special school board meeting that was scheduled for 9 a.m. Saturday as been canceled.

NC firefighters killed on duty

SALISBURY, N.C. (AP) — Two firefighters have been killed fighting a massive fire at a wood millworks in central North Carolina.

The fire broke out Friday morning at Salisbury Millworks in Rowan County, about 20

miles north of Charlotte.

A hospital official confirmed the deaths. Rowan Regional Medical Center spokesman Michael Burton says two firefighters also were injured.

It isn't clear how the fire started.

Cup stacking



Pampa News Photo by KERRI SMITH

From left, kindergarten students Paige Perry, Seth Starnes and Zane Sutherland built a big "cup tower" out of stacking cups at Austin's "Under the Big Top" activities Wednesday. The younger students got to enjoy these activities while older students took TAKS tests.

Fridge

Continued from Page 1

coolant, have their compressors detached, and be marked with a sticker or accompanied by a certificate verifying that the coolant has been properly removed and disposed of, said Doug Brown, Pampa sanitation department superintendent, before they will be accepted at Pampa's

landfill.

Many of the 16 units turned in to Top Of Texas Ice during the first monthly collection, from 9 to 11 a.m. March 1, were removed from rural locations in the county, Willoughby said. Local residents also brought refrigerators to be processed and discarded.

"The hero of the day was one gentleman who brought us his refrigerator, then went and picked up another one, with the owner's permission, that he had seen in an alley," said Paulette Hinkle of Top Of Texas Ice.

The next collection day for area residents to drop off their unwanted appliances for free disposal will be April 5 at Top Of Texas Ice, 1945 N. Hobart. Items will be accepted from 9 to 11 a.m. If someone wishes to bring their appliance to be discarded but does not have the means to do so, they may call 665-2061 to make arrangements for pickup.

Starting April 5, Top Of Texas Ice will also accept discarded clothes washers, dryers and stoves, according to company representative Mary Ann Richards.

Weather

Continued from Page 1

morning, said Jessica Schultz, National Weather Service meteorologist in Fort Worth. Temperatures were expected to hover around freezing before warming to at least the 40s in many parts of the region later in the day, she said.

Parts of Central Texas were also getting a dusting of snow Friday morning — around an inch or less, the National Weather Service said.

At Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport, officials said that by Friday morning the runways were clear and dry. But they expected to have at least 60 more departures canceled Friday morning because of Thursday's storm, mainly because many aircraft were out of position. As a result of 1 inch of snow falling Thursday afternoon, 500 departures were canceled at the airport and thousands of passengers stranded.

Snow accumulations Thursday ranged from a trace in Dallas to up to 9 inches in Cooke County on

the Red River.

The winter storm Thursday left slick roads in North Texas that sent some school buses into ditches and hundreds of cars off the roads.

In Cooke County south of Gainesville, several buses from the Callisburg school district slid into ditches as students from all grades were being taken home early Thursday because of the weather, Cooke County Emergency Management Coordinator Ray Fletcher said.

The children walked out through the main doors

except in one case, where the bus slid onto its side and they had to escape through a back door, he said. No injuries were reported.

"They let school out early because nobody counted on it getting bad this quick," Fletcher said. "There were no injuries, just real hassles in getting the buses out of the ditches."

Many businesses, government buildings and schools throughout the region closed early and called off events Thursday. Still, minor car accidents and traffic jams were reported in several cities.

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PAMPA

Viewpoints

Today's youth are all ready keeping up with the Joneses

I wish I hadn't lent my bike to my sister Kris.

Maybe I better explain. The Children's Society, a charitable group in the UK dedicated to improving childhood, released the results of a recent survey. It found that kids are way too materialistic these days.

Look at the average suburban kid. He or she is outfitted with more technical gadgets and trendy, fashionable clothing than a model in Abercrombie & Fitch. Many of these kids appear to get whatever it is they demand their guilt-riddled parents buy for them.

Peer pressure puts kids in a competitive race to own the latest, the coolest and the most expensive junk with the hopes of impressing the

other kids and fitting in. The survey finds that the kids most influenced by commercial pressures suffer more mental-health issues.

It certainly wasn't like that when I was a kid in the '70s. Most households had only one income earner. Our parents didn't have the cash to buy us the junk we wanted. Which brings us to my bike.

I'd been hoping for a new bike for Christmas and finally got one in 1972. It was a Huffly spider bike — complete with long handlebars, a banana seat and neon-green paint that made it the coolest bike in the neighborhood.

I was consumed with so much joy that day, I couldn't imagine any gift that could make me happier. But then

my godmother Shirley gave me a top-of-the-line bicycle odometer. It wasn't one of the cheap devices that every kid bolted onto his front-wheel fork; all the cheap ones did was register mileage.

No, this odometer bolted onto the handle bars. It had a real display that measured both mileage and speed. I spent hours seeing how fast I could get the bike to go (I hit 44 miles per hour one day while peddling like mad down a long hill in the county park).

And I spent hours trying to rack up mileage. That was

prestige in those days — the more miles on your odometer, the cooler you were. But my lust for mileage proved to be my undoing.

One beautiful summer day, my sister Kris asked to borrow my bike. She wanted to go for a ride in the park with her friend. Eager to record more mileage, I handed it over without a thought.

But Kris didn't make it to the park that day. She rode to the Murphy's Mart department store a few miles away instead. It never occurred to her that my beautiful Huffly spider bike — with its highly

coveted odometer — might require a lock. It was long gone by the time she exited the store.

I've been a writer a long time and still can't find the words to describe the pain I knew that day. I wonder how kids today might respond to such an experience. Would they even care?

Or would they just assume that green Huffly spider bikes grow on trees — that pestering Mom and Dad will instantly produce another?

That couldn't happen in 1972. We couldn't afford another new bike, but my father found one in the bargain paper. It was a Murray five-speed with dual hand brakes. The shifter handle had been snapped in half, but otherwise she was as good as

new.

And though I never would have a top-of-the-line odometer again, I rode that bike many enjoyable miles. I hold fond memories of both bikes, because I was, in many ways, luckier than kids are today.

Many parents didn't have the dough to spoil their kids with material junk. Peer pressure has always existed, but most kids in the '70s couldn't use materialism as a means to express it.

No, parents used their limited means to give us only what we needed. And what every kid needs more than stuff is love and stability and a mother and father who are always there for him. Lucky for me, my parents provided

See PURCELL, Page 10

Tom Purcell
Columnist



Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, March 7, the 67th day of 2008. There are 299 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 7, 1965, a march by civil rights demonstrators was broken up in Selma, Ala., by state troopers and a sheriff's posse.

On this date:

In 1849, horticulturist Luther Burbank was born in Lancaster, Mass.

In 1850, in a 3-hour speech to the U.S. Senate, Daniel Webster endorsed the Compromise of 1850 as a means of preserving the Union.

In 1876, Alexander Graham Bell received a patent for his telephone.

In 1908, Italian actress Anna Magnani was born in Rome.

In 1926, the first successful trans-Atlantic radio-telephone conversations took place, between New York and London.

In 1936, Adolf Hitler ordered his troops to march into the Rhineland, thereby breaking the

Treaty of Versailles and the Locarno Pact.

In 1945, during World War II, U.S. forces crossed the Rhine River at Remagen, Germany, using the damaged but still usable Ludendorff Bridge.

In 1975, the Senate revised its filibuster rule, allowing 60 senators to limit debate in most cases, instead of the previously required two-thirds of senators present.

In 1981, anti-government guerrillas in Colombia executed kidnapped American Bible translator Chester Allen Bitterman, whom they accused of being a CIA agent.

In 1999, movie director Stanley Kubrick died in Hertfordshire, England, at age 70.

Ten years ago: Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, speaking in Rome, said the U.S. wouldn't tolerate any more violence in Kosovo, which she blamed on Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic.

Five years ago: Virtually every musical on Broadway shut down as musicians went on strike, and actors and stagehands said they wouldn't cross their picket lines; the walkout lasted four days.

One year ago: Sex offender John Evander Couey was found guilty in Miami of kidnapping, raping and murdering 9-year-old Jessica Lunsford, who was buried alive. Ten people were killed in the Bronx, N.Y., when fire tore through their home. A suicide attacker blew himself up in a cafe northeast of Baghdad, killing 30 people.

'More tears are shed over answered prayers than unanswered ones.'

— St. Teresa of Avila (1515-1582)



Reparations movement is nothing but a con

The reparations-for-slavery game is afoot again, aided and abetted by public television and any number of misguided liberals. Reparations for slavery is a con — an attempt to wheedle money from the innocent for the benefit of the uninjured.

Furthermore, anyone who apologizes for something he never participated in or condoned to people who never suffered from it is a fool. The entire population of the United States in the year 2008 is as innocent of the sin of slavery as newborn babes. Slavery ended in the United States in 1868. That was 140 years ago. To force people alive today to pay money for something they didn't do and never benefited from is an injustice. To lay a guilt trip on Americans today is an injustice.

Justice is a fairly simple concept. If someone is

wrongly harmed, then the person who wrongly harmed him should be required to make him whole, or at least as close as possible. To argue that someone who has done no harm must compensate someone who suffered no harm is Alice in Wonderland thinking. In short, it's nuts.

Slavery is an institution as old as the human race. It probably still exists in some parts of the world. At the time it existed in the United States, it was more or less a global phenomenon and both legal and constitutional, regardless of whether we think it was moral. In fact, it is a good lesson to remind us all that legal and moral are not synonyms. Abortion on

demand is legal, but by my standards, it's immoral.

At any rate, we Americans have a lot of contemporary problems that require our attention. We really don't have time to excavate the past and argue about matters that no longer exist and therefore no longer matter.

Racism, of course, still exists, though I would argue that today the United States is one of the least-racist countries on the planet. We have some professional racists of all colors who try, of course, to magnify every incident beyond its real significance, aided and abetted by the plague of yellow journalism that infects more and more news outlets these days.

But one rarely runs into real racism these days, and usually when you do, it's from a person of color. There are all sorts of racist organizations in the black community. For some reason, people think it's OK to have a black thinkers association but not a white association, for example, or a black congressional caucus but not a white congressional caucus. Since urban problems affect white and black alike, and since everything Congress does affects white and black alike, I really don't see the point of these organizations, and I think they are potentially dangerous.

The answer to racism is to eliminate race from our thought processes. As yet, many blacks are not willing to do that. Some of them make a good living by being

See REESE, Page 10

Charley Reese
Columnist



THE PAMPA NEWS

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Publisher: Randy Pribble

Managing Editor: Kerri Smith

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This newspaper (UPS 781-540) is published daily, except Saturdays, Thanksgiving and Christmas Day, by The Pampa News. Periodicals postage, paid at Pampa, Texas. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Pampa News, P.O. Drawer 2198, Pampa, TX 79066-2198.

All carriers are independent contractors and The Pampa News is not responsible for advance payments of two or more months made to the carrier. Please pay directly to the Pampa News any payment that exceeds the current collection period. There are no mail subscriptions available within the city limits of Pampa. Mail subscriptions must be paid three months in advance.

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Texas Thoughts

By The Associated Press

A sample of editorial opinion around Texas:

n Feb. 21

Odessa American on Congress and sports:

We are at war. Our housing market is so weak that lenders must leave deadbeats in their homes. Were borrowing money with disregard for the future. A growing pool of retirees will tap out Social Security and overstress younger workers. Our carmakers are broke. Immigrants are needed for working-class jobs Americans once competed for.

Yet here's what Congress has time and money to fuss about: football and baseball.

Its surreal to watch seasoned politicians grilling athletes for hours regarding their behavior. Its like a scene from the silly movie "Used Cars," in which a mayor drops everything to determine whether a car dealer lied in an ad.

But Congress isn't joking. In the most recent episode of congressional absurdity, U.S. Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., demanded a meeting with NFL commissioner Roger Goodell. The senator wanted Goodell to explain why he destroyed tapes and notes pertaining to allegations that New England Patriots coach Bill Belichick taped defensive signals of opposing teams.

Goodell has said he doesn't think Belichick's tapes were illegal, and he doesn't regret destroying them. But Specter isn't about to let this extraordi-

narily unimportant controversy go. The former prosecutor wants to talk to other league officials so he can get to the bottom of it. He wants to know exactly what was taped and which games may have been compromised.

This isn't the first time Specter has involved himself in football, acting like a micromanaging franchise owner. In 2005 he threatened to use his Senate Judiciary Committee to investigate whether the Philadelphia Eagles had violated antitrust laws by benching and then trading receiver Terrell Owens.

The blogosphere is abuzz with speculation that Specter's mixing of sports and state involves his cozy relationship with Comcast Cable, a Pennsylvania-

See SPORTS, Page 10

Praise & Worship

A Weekly Series Highlighting Pampa's Churches

Putnam to preach revival services at local church

Evangelist, singer and composer Wesley Putnam will lead revival services March 9-12 at First United Methodist Church in Pampa.

"Putnam delivers a clear call to commitment through both word and song that has impacted the lives of people of all ages from all walks of life," a news release from the church said. "His ministry includes preaching, storytelling and music woven together to create a fresh approach to renewal."

The Rev. Putnam will preach at First United Methodist during 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. worship services Sunday and 7 p.m. nightly Monday through Wednesday.

In addition to his regular ministry, Putnam will present BibleQuest, a fast-

paced program designed to make learning Bible facts and truths more exciting for children. He will present BibleQuest at 9:15 a.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday and 6 p.m. nightly Monday through Wednesday at the church.

Putnam holds a bachelor of music degree from Northeast Louisiana University and a master of divinity degree from Asbury Theological Seminary. An ordained United Methodist clergyman, he pastored local churches for more than eight years before becoming a full-time evangelist in 1981.

Putnam has cut a number of albums with songs from five of albums receiving airplay on Christian radio stations nationwide. Five songs from his "Heal

Our Land" album have been published as choral anthems by Lorenz music.

In addition, Putnam has produced several video cassettes on the lives of Biblical characters. He animates, for example, James, the brother of Jesus, to relate New Testament stories.

Putnam has appeared as worship leader and soloist for many national events. He previously served as president and executive evangelist of the National Association of United Methodist Evangelists and sat on the executive committee of the Council on Evangelism for the United Methodist Church.

He and wife, Felicia, live in Bedford and have three grown sons and seven grandchildren.

Moms In Touch

COURTESY PHOTO

The local chapter of Moms In Touch held its Spring Luncheon and Training recently at the home of Regional Coordinator Pat Kennedy. Above: Leaders present were (front row, left-right) Sheila Winton, Sue Fatheree, Danina



Kennedy, Jona Smith, (standing, l-r) Kennedy, Robin McKay, Tonja Stowers, Lisa Clifton, Ronna Raber, Kenzie

Whittington and Leigh Chisum. Not pictured: Pam Funderburg and Stephanie Kelly. Stowers is the local contact person.

CHURCH BRIEF

New Hope celebrating 35 years in Pampa

New Hope Missionary Baptist Church, 912 S. Gray, is celebrating its 35th church anniversary March 7 and 9. Services will begin at 8 p.m. today. The guest speaker will be the Rev. James Collins of Mount Zion Baptist Church in Amarillo. A special program is scheduled at 3:30 p.m. Sunday with the sermon by the Rev. Jackie Riles.

Dinner will be served from 1-3 p.m. at the church. The evening service will be at 8 p.m.

New Hope as organized and established on March 10, 1974. The Rev. Darren Willis is the current pastor of the church. Former pastors include the Rev. J.T. Wilson (1974-1977), the Rev. Vurn C. Martin (1978-1997), and the Rev. Thomas J. Patterson (1998-2004).

Good Sams issues annual update

The Good Samaritan service in Pampa recently posted its annual activity report along with several announcements in its 2008 newsletter. According to the activity report, most families served were 432 in August and the least served were 306 in February. Families served for the entire year were 4,558.

Services or aid offered through the outreach for the year included food, clothing, utilities, medical, lodging and transportation.

The newsletter reported a grant in the amount of \$21,000 from the David D. and Nona S. Payne Foundation for the refurbishing of the facility and grounds as well as additional grants from the M.K. Brown Foundation (\$10,000) and Gray-Pampa Trust (\$20,000).

Calvary Assembly of God Church, 1030 Love, joined as a new member church. Other member churches, as reported in the newsletter, are Carpenter House, Central Baptist Church, Cornerstone Baptist Church, First Assembly of God, First Baptist Church, First Christian Church, First Church of the Nazarene, First Presbyterian Church, First United Methodist Church, Highland Baptist Church, Hi-Land Christian

Church, St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, St. Paul Methodist Church, St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, Zion Lutheran Church, all local churches, and First Baptist Church in Skellytown.

Currently, Good Sams is in need of the following donations: Men's and children's tennis shoes, shampoo, baby food, toothpaste, pots, pans and brown paper bags. The facility is open between 2-5 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and is located at 309 N. Ward. For more information, call 665-0073.

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This weekly series brought to you by these area businesses.

Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I was a healthy, vibrant mother of one with a steady government job. I saw my doctor regularly for check-ups, since both my parents have high blood pressure. As an active, health-conscious vegetarian, I thought I was at my physical peak. When I experienced nausea and lower back pain, I expected my doctor to tell me my 4-year-old daughter was going to have a sister or brother. Instead, I was informed that my kidneys were barely working and I needed to see a specialist at once. That's when my life began spinning out of control. I was told I would need dialysis to keep me alive! How could this happen? Where were the warning signs and symptoms? Why wasn't my kidney function checked during previous doctor visits? There were no answers to these questions. No one in my family was able to donate a kidney to me because everyone had high blood pressure. So I went on dialysis and learned everything I could about kidney disease. After 10 years of dialysis, I finally received a successful kidney transplant. Many people don't realize that high blood pressure and diabetes are the two leading causes of kidney disease. More than 26 million Americans have chronic kidney disease, and millions more are at risk. Screening for kidney function is not part of a routine physical examination, and kidney disease generally shows no symptoms -- so if you have a family history of high blood pressure or diabetes, you are at risk. Simple blood and urine tests could save your life. So please don't put off what you can take care of today. Tomorrow could be too late. -- **DAWN P. EDWARDS, LAKE SUCCESS, N.Y.**

DEAR DAWN: Thank you for your informative eye-opener of a letter. I am pleased that you finally got your kidney

transplant because I know what a life-changing difference it has made for you and your daughter -- truly a new beginning. Readers, March is National Kidney Month, and March 13 is World Kidney Day. That's the day the National Kidney Foundation holds free screenings in 30 cities across the country. The screening program is called "KEEP," or Kidney Early Evaluation Program. You can learn more about kidney disease by visiting www.kidney.org. To find the KEEP screening nearest you, log onto www.keeponline.org, or call the National Kidney Foundation toll-free at 800-622-9010.

DEAR ABBY: I have been going through a very selective interview process toward getting the job of my dreams. The problem is, I have a vacation planned for three months from now. When is the correct time to inform my prospective employer of this preplanned, prepaid and non-refundable trip? (It's my husband's dream vacation, and I would hate to have to let him down.) -- **MS. PROFESSIONAL IN CLEVELAND, GA.**

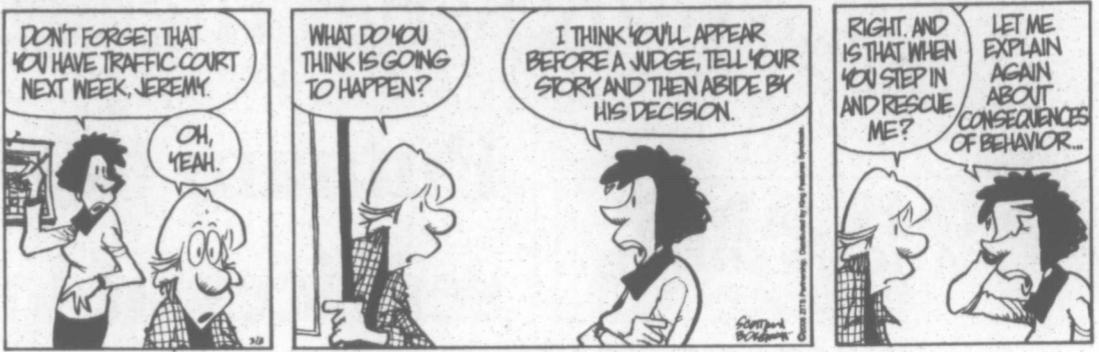
DEAR MS. PROFESSIONAL: Inform your prospective employer immediately that you have a prepaid vacation planned. The person doing the hiring will respect you for doing so, and you should not lose out on the "job of your dreams."

I am speaking from personal experience when I say this because when I hired my personal assistant, Sherry, she let me know during the interview that she had not one but two trips planned. I respected her candor, hired her, and consider her to be one of the major blessings in my life.

For Better Or Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

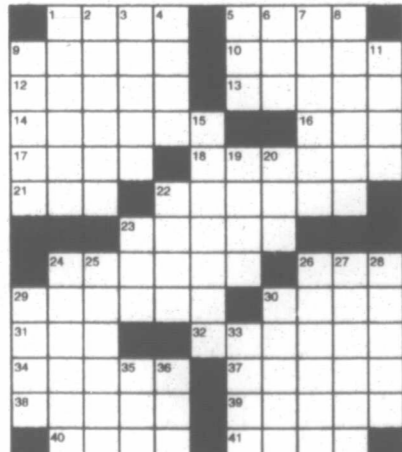
- ACROSS** 40 Under-
1 Major work world river
5 Underbody 41 Salon jobs problem
9 Wasn't thrifty
10 Square
12 Danny Thomas' daughter
13 Frontiersman Daniel
14 Rigs
16 Tiny
17 One of the Deadly Sins
18 Hired killer Spike
21 Director
22 Line of work
23 Martini base
24 Musical instruments
26 Saloon
29 Completely redone
30 "Love —" (Beatles song)
31 "2001" computer
32 Attention-getting call
34 Ready to swing
37 Floor piece
38 Designer Geoffrey
39 "Hound Dog" singer
- DOWN**
1 Not transparent
2 Read
3 Dark
4 Word
7 on a red octagon
5 Massage
6 One (Sp.)
7 Missouri motto
8 Musical handicap
9 Aroma
11 Hammer part
15 Vague
19 Ticks off
20 Brewed beverage
22 Volcano shape
23 Moving truck
24 Setting items
25 "Oh, sure!"
26 Refrain from mischief
27 Hand-some youth of myth
28 Chess castles
29 "Moby" captain
30 Pitcher of the Revolution
33 Commentary page
35 One or more
36 Singer



Saturday's answer

- 22 Volcano shape
23 Moving truck
24 Setting items
25 "Oh, sure!"
26 Refrain from mischief
27 Hand-some youth of myth
28 Chess castles
29 "Moby" captain
30 Pitcher of the Revolution
33 Commentary page
35 One or more
36 Singer

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Fio & Friends



Sports

Softball



Pampa News photo by KATHERINE FLANARY

Ashley Facio was on the mound for the Lady Harvesters. Her overall record is 4-9-1. She had one strikeout and gave up three hits in Thursday's game.

Softball team played Canyon

By KATHERINE FLANARY
Sports Editor

The Lady Harvester softball team lost to Canyon Thursday, 7-5.

The Lady Harvesters were strong in the first two innings, not allowing the Lady Eagles to score.

The Lady Harvesters had three runs in the first two innings.

In the third inning, Canyon had six runs and did not allow the Lady Harvesters to score.

Ashley Facio pitched for the first three innings. She had one strikeout and gave up three hits. Her overall

record is 4-9-1.

Carlyn Teichmann came in to pitch in the fourth inning and stayed until the end of the game.

Teichmann's overall record is 2-0 on the year. She had five strikeouts and gave up two hits in Thursday's game.

Kelby Doughty had one hit and one run in the game.

Libby Dyson had one hit, one run and one RBI, as did Sammie Pearson.

Kambra Jimenez had one hit and one RBI.

Shelbie Watson had three hits and one run, while Kamie Doughty had one hit and one RBI.

The Lady Harvester's next game will be Saturday against Levelland. They will be playing in Pampa. The Varsity girls will be playing at 2 p.m., and the JV girls will play at 4 p.m.

The Harvesters baseball team won their game Thursday against Snyder, 6-1. The Harvesters are playing in the Snyder Tournament, which will end Saturday.

Their next game after the Snyder Tournament is scheduled to be played Tuesday against Perryton. The game will be played in Perryton at 5 p.m.

OPTIMIST CLUB UPDATE

Boy's basketball season wrapped up

The Pampa Optimist Club wrapped up its 2008 Boy's Basketball Season on Thursday night with the championship round of the annual City Tournament. The Great Plains Abstract and Title Buckeyes of the 3rd & 4th grade division and the Alvey Law Mavericks of the 5th & 6th grade division reached the title game this past Monday night with victories over the Douglas Paint and Body Tarheels and the NBC Sonics. They found out who their opponents would be from the semi-final round of the city tournament played on Tuesday night.

The early game on Tuesday night saw the K.C. Enterprise Irish advance to the championship round with a 23 to 19 victory over the Fenton Motor Cowboys. The Irish were led by their big man Ryan Lee with 11 points, Zach Wilson tossed in 8 from his guard position and Alec McClendon posted up for 4 points to wrap up the night for the Irish.

The Cowboys were also led by their big man Zach Beedy who had 10 points. The Cowboys leading scorer on the year Josh DeLoach got in foul trouble early in the game and wound up ending his season early in the third quarter when he had to leave the game after drawing his 5th personal of the game. DeLoach still added 7 points and Kolton Jefferies rounded out the night for

the Cowboys with 2 points.

The Willis Oilfield Nuggets remained undefeated and advanced to the 5th and 6th grade championship game after a 31 to 13 victory over the Clifton Supply Pistons in the 7 pm game on Tuesday night. The Nuggets were led by Damon Walker with 20 points, Hunter Hughes added 3 and Dayton Tipton, Jacob Brown, Arron Allen and Nathan Sprinkle each tossed in 2 points.

The Pistons ended their season with Cylar Clifton leading the way on the score board with 6 points, Ashjen Payne added 4 points, Roy Nelson had 2 points and Calvin Webb wrapped up the season for the Pistons with 1 point.

The Championship games played on Thursday night saw the #1 seed Great Plains Abstract & Title Buckeyes taking on the #4 seed K.C. Enterprise Irish in the 3rd & 4th grade division at 6pm. The 5th & 6th grade division pitted the #1 seed Willis Oilfield Nuggets against the #2 seed Alvey Law Mavericks at 7pm.

Cade Engle exploded for 16 points in the 2nd half for a grand total of 22 on the game to help lead the Buckeyes to a 32 to 10 victory over the Irish. Landon Taylor posted up for 6 points and Garrett Mullican and Solon Wilson each tossed in 2 points to wrap up the 2nd

straight championship for the Buckeyes. The Buckeyes finished the season undefeated winning back to back League and City Tournament Championships.

The Irish were led by their high scoring point guard Zach Wilson with 6 points and big man Ryan Lee with 4 points wrapped up the season for the Irish.

The Willis Oilfield Nuggets put up 32 points to the Alvey Law Mavericks 23 in the late game to keep the Nuggets perfect season alive. Damon Walker poured it on for the Nuggets with 20 points and a number of blocked shots. Arron Allen added 6 points and Hunter Hughes, Jacob Brown and Alex Marrufo each scored 2 points to wrap up the League and City Tournament Championship for the Nuggets.

The Mavericks played hard and kept the game very tight with several lead changes through out the first half. However, the Mavericks saw their leader Brandon Stokes leave the game early in the 3rd quarter with 4 points and a badly sprained ankle. Jonathan Stevens and Dylan Zawicki with 8 points each paced the Mavericks, Korbin Ramirez tossed in 2 and Aaron McKinney add 1 point to wrap up a very good season for the Mavericks.

Judge in Simpson case to decide whether to drop charges

LAS VEGAS (AP) — The judge in O.J. Simpson's armed robbery case is weighing whether to drop any charges against the former football star and whether two co-defendants should be tried separately.

District Court Judge Jackie Glass was scheduled to hear arguments Friday on 16 motions filed by defense lawyers and prosecutors, including requests to delay Simpson's trial, to throw out half the 12 charges against him and to specify what evidence might be admitted.

"What's at stake is whether or not they will face all the charges that have been levied against them," said Michael Sommermeyer, Clark County District Court spokesman. "Also, whether they'll be tried together."

Simpson and co-defendants Charles Ehrlich and Clarence "C.J." Stewart weren't due in court for the hearing. They are accused of

kidnapping and robbing two sports collectibles dealers peddling Simpson memorabilia at a Las Vegas hotel-casino in September.

The judge told defense lawyers and prosecutors last week that she planned to decide pretrial motions on Friday, and would stick to an April 7 trial date she set in November.

Simpson, Ehrlich and Stewart have pleaded not guilty to all charges, including kidnapping, armed robbery and assault with a deadly weapon. Convictions could bring life prison sentences with the possibility of parole.

"Our goal is to carry the day on the robbery charge and have the case dismissed," said Simpson's lawyer, Yale Galanter. "If not, the second most important issue is how we are going to select a jury."

A spokesman for District Attorney David Roger

declined comment Thursday. Roger has characterized efforts to delay the trial as an attempt to sever Simpson's trial from those of his co-defendants.

Galanter said he has asked for a written questionnaire to be filled out by jury prospects, and wants prospective jurors questioned individually to prevent them from hearing one another's answers.

"I don't think you can question jurors as a group," he said. "If one person says he thinks O.J. is a murderer, then you have to dismiss the whole panel."

Stewart's lawyer, Robert Lucherini, and Ehrlich's lawyer, John Moran Jr., have argued they need more time to prepare for a trial that could include as many as 78 prosecution witnesses. They said they might appeal to the state Supreme Court if Glass rules that their clients should be tried with Simpson.

WHITE DEER BASKETBALL

In a game played Thursday morning, the White Deer Bucks faced the Thorndale Bulldogs in the basketball semi-finals.

The Bucks lost with a score of 36-60.

According to the UIL website, the high scorer for the game include Parker Petty, with 17 of the 36

points earned for the Bucks. Petty was also the leader in field goals, with a total of four, as well as rebounds, with a total of seven. Petty also had one block.

Other high scorers for the game include Tyler Perryman, with seven points, and Thomas Rapstine, with five points.

The Bucks had 25 rebounds, nine steals, two blocks, six assists, and 18 turnovers.

The Bucks made four of the eight free throws.

The last field goal earned for the Bucks was made in the fourth quarter with 10 seconds to go.

Registration continues for Optimist Baseball/Softball

Tryouts for Pampa Optimist Baseball/Softball 2008 will be held March 11, 12 13 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at Optimist Park, according to Darrin Clendennen, 11-12 Cal Ripken Commissioner.

Registration will continue on the same days from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Clendennen said. All players, including those who played last year, must register to be eligible to play this season.

Players moving up to the 9-10 Cal Ripken League, the 11-12 Cal Ripken League,

the Babe Ruth League and the 9-10, 11-12 and 13-15 softball leagues and players who did not play in those leagues last year are required to attend two of the three try-out sessions.

"We recommend that the players bring a glove, tennis shoes or baseball shoes and a light jacket," said Kevin Davis, the Optimist Baseball Commissioner. "It gets cold by 7 p.m. at this time of the year."

Registration continues to be heavy with 106 signing

up on Thursday to bring the four-day total to 394. "We already have more baseball and softball players that all the other Optimist sports put together," Clendennen commented.

"We anticipate adding some teams if we can get the additional coaches for them," Davis said. "By reducing the number of players on teams to as low as 11 and being able to play with just eight, we will be able to offer more games and more playing time."

Marathon hopeful, 101-year-old, training hard

LONDON - Already Britain's oldest employee, 101-year-old Buster Martin now aims to become the world's oldest marathon runner by completing the London Marathon and celebrating with a pint of beer and a cigarette.

Sprightly and bearded, he completed a half marathon at the weekend in five hours 13 minutes. The former Army physical training instructor works three days a week for a London plumbing firm and says he has trained for the April 13th race in his spare time.

"I've said I'll attempt it,"

he told Reuters by telephone



Buster Martin pauses for a break while training in a London Park.

from his workplace at Pimlico Plumbers. "I haven't

said I'll complete it. If I do make it, all the better. I hadn't thought of doing it before but someone asked me and the money goes to charity so why not?"

His sponsorship money will go to the Rhys Daniels Trust, which provides temporary accommodation for families of patients in specialist children's hospitals.

Martin, who had 17 children and returned to work at the age of 99 saying he was bored after two years of retirement, would beat the previous record for world's oldest marathon runner by eight years.

Pro golfer Tripp Isenhour apologizes for killing hawk

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Pro golfer Tripp Isenhour apologized for killing a hawk that was making noise while he tried to film a TV show. Now the Humane Society wants the PGA Tour to take action.

"Because of the high profile nature of this case, the PGA needs to take steps to address its interest and to make it clear that they don't condone animal cruelty," said Dale Bartlett, the deputy manager for animal cruelty issues for the Humane Society of the United States.

Bartlett said the organization would contact the PGA Tour on Friday to discuss the issue.

Isenhour, who plays on the developmental Nationwide Tour, was charged Wednesday with cruelty to animals and killing a migratory bird, misdemeanors that carry a maximum penalty of 14 months in jail and \$1,500 in fines.

Isenhour quickly apologized Thursday.

"As soon as this happened, I was mortified and extremely upset and continue to be upset," Isenhour said in a statement issued

through his management company, SFX Golf. "I want to let everyone know there was neither any malice nor deliberate intent whatsoever to hit or harm the hawk. I was trying to simply scare it into flying away."

The 39-year-old player, whose real name is John Henry Isenhour III, became angry while filming "Shoot Like A Pro" on Dec. 12 at the Grand Cypress Golf Club when a squawking red-shouldered hawk roughly 300 yards away forced another take.

He drove closer to the bird in his golf cart and starting hitting balls at it. The bird didn't move and Isenhour gave up and drove away.

Isenhour started again when the hawk moved within about 75 yards, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission officer Brian Baine indicated in a report.

Isenhour allegedly said, "I'll get him now," and aimed for the hawk.

"About the sixth ball came very near the bird's head, and (Isenhour) was very excited that it was so close," Baine wrote.

A few shots later, witnesses said he hit the hawk. The bird, protected as a migratory species, fell to the ground bleeding from both nostrils.

Bartlett said Isenhour's case, like the Michael Vick dog fighting case, is disappointing for society.

"We look up to professional athletes and we want them to reflect the best of us as a society and I think we're appalled when it turns out they instead reflect some of the very worst attributes," he said in a phone interview Thursday night.

Isenhour said he is an animal lover and his family has adopted three cats from a local shelter.

"We ask that everyone accept my sincerest apology, and please be respectful of my family's privacy," he said.

Isenhour has won four times on the Nationwide Tour, including twice in 2006. The former Georgia Tech star has played three events this year on the tour the last a 36th-place tie two weeks ago in the Moonah Classic in Australia.



COURTESY PHOTO

'Rockin' Around the TAKS'

McKinley Stokes, Miranda Patterson, Caitlin Sieck and Ellen Cambern went all out recently on "Rockin' Around the TAKS" day at Pampa Junior High School. The special day called for students to dress up in styles from the 1950s.

Purcell

Cont. from Page 4

an abundance of that.

And that was even more valuable than a Schwinn Orange Krate spider bike, the most coveted two-wheeled machine in the history of kid-dom.

—Tom Purcell is a humor columnist nationally syndicated exclusively by Cagle Cartoons newspaper syndicate.

China to crack down on foreign entertainers

SHANGHAI, China (AP) — China will be stricter on foreign performers after Icelandic singer Bjork shouted "Tibet! Tibet!" at the end of her concert in Shanghai this week, the government said Friday.

A statement by China's Culture Ministry said Bjork's outburst "broke Chinese law and hurt Chinese people's feelings." Bjork shouted "Tibet!" after a passionate performance of her song "Declare Independence" on Sunday. The outburst drew rare public attention inside China to

Beijing's often harsh rule over the Himalayan region.

The statement, posted on the Culture Ministry's Web site, also said "there is no country that admits that Tibet is an 'independent country.'"

Bjork has performed the song to support other independence movements in the past. She dedicated the song to Kosovo while performing last month in Japan. The lyrics include the phrase "Raise your flag!"

China's 58-year rule over Tibet has drawn frequent condemnation from foreign

governments and activists, often inciting a prickly nationalism among the Chinese government and ordinary people. Many Tibetans consider the exiled Buddhist spiritual leader the Dalai Lama as their rightful leader.

Sports

Continued from Page 4

based company and Specters second largest contributor. Comcast has been at war with the NFL about broadcasting rights, so its easy to believe he has motive to tweak the NFL.

On the House side, politicians are investigating years-old drug allegations involving baseball players. Most recently, hours upon hours have been wasted in a congressional hearing that centers on deciding whether pitcher Roger Clemens was given performance-enhancing drugs years ago by his former personal trainer, Brian McNamee. Each says the other is lying.

Rep. Christopher Shays, R-Conn., and other Republicans have taken to calling the trainer a "drug dealer." Democrats have generally decided to pile on Clemens. Pundit speculation holds that Republicans are harsh on the trainer because Clemens is friendly with President Bush. And because of that friendship, experts opine, Democrats have it out for Clemens. Few Americans understand why Congress would involve itself in baseball and football, right down to questions about one player's time on the bench.

"Its ridiculous that Congress involves itself in issues like this," said Washington lawyer Greg Skidmore, founder of the Sports Law Blog.

They barely have jurisdiction, and only if one respects

the absurd. It comes from the fact professional sports operate under antitrust exemptions granted by Congress. The exemptions are needed so that leagues may negotiate exclusive broadcasting rights, set ticket prices, and limit the number of franchises granted in any given market.

"Because Congress has the power to take away that exemption, it has the authority to exercise control," Skidmore said. "Members of Congress can say that the exemption is conditional on high standards of public service, and that allows Congress to stick its nose into the everyday affairs of

private enterprise."

Just because Congress may, doesn't mean it should. The challenges and threats to our way of life are huge. All can be conquered. But our leaders need to focus on constructive solutions not the trivial inner workings of sports teams. These are games, not critical issues of public policy.

Americans overwhelmingly believe a myth that says the Constitution demands separation of church and state. The myth has become de facto law. Wed like to propose a myth of equal stature: separation of politics and sports. URL: <http://www.oaoa.com>

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Reese

Continued from Page 4

black. I don't see any difference between a racial agitator who is black and one who is white. They are just working different sides of the street.

A main ingredient of the stupidity of racism is the pretense that one group is all good and the other group is all bad. In fact, both groups are part of the human race and as such are a mixture of good and evil. As for injustice, much if not most of human history is the story of injustice. The pursuit of a just society is a task that befalls every generation and always will, because the temptation of the strong to dominate or take advantage of the weak will always be present. The trick is to zero in on real injustices and not create imaginary injustices.

As for those who want reparations for slavery, they should consider going to Africa. It was, after all, Africans who enslaved other Africans and sold them to the Europeans. Steven Spielberg ended his movie "Amistad" too soon. The hero of the movie, Cinque, who led the slave mutiny, returned to Africa a free man and, according to historians, became a successful slave trader himself.

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

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diabetes in the senior population

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Extreme fatigue
Irritability

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Statistics

- While an estimated 20.8 million have been diagnosed with diabetes, 6.2 million people are unaware they have the disease.
- Every day, 2,200 new cases of diabetes are diagnosed, or 750,000 a year.
- Diabetes is the 6th leading cause of death by disease in the United States.
- About 80,000 lower limbs are amputated annually due to complications from diabetes.
- Diabetes is the leading cause of end-stage kidney disease, accounting for about 40% of new cases; it is the leading cause of new cases of blindness among adults age 20 to 74.
- 10.3 million or 20.9% of all people in the age group 65 and older have diabetes.
- People over the age of 65 with diabetes are three times more likely to be hospitalized for falls than people without the disease.
- One in five people with diabetes who seek hospital care do so for foot problems.
- The feet often provide the best sign of more serious health issues, such as diabetes.
- Eighty-five percent of all diabetes-related lower extremity amputations are preceded by a foot ulcer.

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