



Tomorrow's Weather

HIGH
42
LOW
25

See expanded weather on Page 2

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FEBRUARY 21ST AT 7PM IN THE HERITAGE ROOM AT THE MK BROWN AUDITORIUM. FEATURED SPEAKER RICHARD "BUZZ" DAVID, PRESIDENT & CEO OF THE AMARILLO EDC. MEAL WILL BE CATERED BY THE TEXAS ROSE RESTAURANT. TICKETS ARE \$25 PER PERSON. AVAILABLE AT THE CHAMBER OFFICE LOCATED AT 200 N BALLARD. ADVANCE SALES ONLY

Pampa police arrest four on meth charges

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

A suspicious person check turned into a quadruple arrest early Wednesday after a Pampa police officer observed what appeared to be a clandestine methamphetamine lab.

Pampa Police Department officers were investigating a suspicious person at about 12:42 a.m. Wednesday in the 300 block of South Cuyler when the discovery was made.

"Officer Jason Rushing had observed several subjects acting peculiar around a 1987 Ford Bronco sitting in the 300 block of South Cuyler," said PPD Sgt. Donny Brown. "As he approached he began to sense what he believed to be a possible methamphetamine lab in the making. As he and other officers began to investigate, they uncovered numerous items related to the making of a clandestine metham-

See METH, Page 3

Local firefighters



Pampa News Photos by KERRI SMITH

Pampa firefighters were busy Wednesday with a couple of grass fires, along with other miscellaneous calls. One fire burned a horse stall, hay and other debris at "Horse Alley" around 3:45 p.m. The animals that were housed in these stalls got out safely. Due to all of the dry material in this location, the Hoover Volunteer Fire Department tanker had to be brought in to refill the Pampa fire truck.



ARMED ROBBERY

Local Allsup's robbed

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

Gray County Sheriff's Office is searching for a man who got away with an undisclosed amount of cash early today after an aggravated robbery was reported at the Allsup's located at the intersection of Price Road and Highway 152.

At 3:05 a.m., deputies were dispatched to the Allsup's in response to a call reporting the incident. The suspect was already gone from the scene.

"When deputies arrived at the

convenience store, the clerk said a black man had entered the store and ordered something from over the counter," said GCSO Lt. Joe B. Hoard. "The clerk reached to get what the man had requested, and the man said he had a gun in his pocket and to open the register and give him the money. The clerk did."

The man then told the clerk to get on the floor. The clerk obeyed and at the same time pushed the store's panic button.

See THEFT, Page 3

Pickens files for PGWCD seat

By DAVID BOWSER
Staff Writer

WHITE DEER -- Boone Pickens is running for a place on the Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District board of directors.

Jay Rosser, a spokesman for Pickens, said that the Dallas businessman and Roberts County rancher filed for the position on the board being vacated by Kim Flowers. Flowers announced late last year that she was moving from Roberts County to Amarillo and would not seek reelection.

At the time, Pickens had expressed an interest in a position on the nine member board that oversees water production in all or parts of eight counties -- Gray, Carson, Potter, Wheeler, Roberts, Donley, Armstrong and Hutchinson.

In the past, Pickens battled the water district over permits to pump and export water from Roberts County to urban areas downstate.

Pickens founded Mesa Water, Inc., to

See BOONE, Page 3

GCAD elects officers

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

Kent Dyson was elected chairman of the Gray County Appraisal Review Board at the board's 2 p.m. meeting Wednesday in the conference room of the appraisal district offices, 815 N. Sumner.

Also elected were Nama

Webb, vice-chairman, and Beth Miller, secretary. Each will serve a one-year term in their respective offices.

Other board members are Bill Kindle and Leona Willis.

Miller, Willis and Kindle were sworn in at Wednesday's meeting after having been re-

See GCAD, Page 3

Grass fire



Pampa News Photo by KERRI SMITH

Pampa firefighters responded to this grass fire in the 200 block of South Nelson around 5:15 p.m. Wednesday. Besides burning a large area of grass, approximately five vehicles were also burned in the blaze.

County to consider election for Clarendon College tax

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

A special election concerning a proposed maintenance tax for Clarendon College - Pampa Campus is on the agenda for Gray County commissioners' court, which will meet at 9 a.m. Friday in the second-floor courtroom of the county courthouse, 205 N. Russell.

A request to place the issue on a ballot for Gray County voters was first put forward at commissioners' Aug. 31, 2007 meeting, when members of Pampa Area Foundation attended to present information on the proposed tax to commissioners.

Commissioners will vote Friday on whether to order a special election May 10 for the tax proposal.

Pampa Area Foundation was formed in 1995 to support the junior college's Pampa campus.

"If this educational facility is going to remain beneficial in the long haul to residents of Pampa and Gray County, this maintenance tax is essential," Don Lane of the foundation said at the Aug. 31 meeting.

The funds generated by levying the tax would not be used to retire any existing debt, and 100 percent of the funds would be

See COUNTY, Page 3

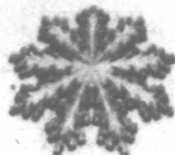
NEXT DAY FORECAST

Friday



Partly cloudy

Saturday



Cloudy

Sunday



Partly cloudy

Friday: Partly sunny, with a high near 42. Wind chill values between 12 and 22. North-northeast wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Friday Night: A chance of rain before 10 p.m., then a chance of freezing rain. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 25. East-northeast wind between 5 and 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.

Saturday: Freezing rain likely before noon, then rain likely. Cloudy, with a high near 34. North-northwest wind around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60 percent.

Saturday Night: A chance of rain and snow before 10 p.m., then a chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 30. North-northwest wind 5 to 10 mph increasing to between 15 and 20 mph. Winds could gust as high as 25 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40 percent.

Sunday: Partly sunny, with a high near 48.

Sunday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 27. North-northeast wind between 5 and 10 mph.

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Obituaries

Bertha Carter, 80

Bertha Carter, 80, of Pampa, died Feb. 14, 2008, at Pampa. Services are pending with Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

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

Mrs. Audrey Jenkins, 79

Mrs. Audrey Jenkins, 79, of Pampa, Texas, died Feb. 13, 2008, at Pampa, Texas. Services are pending with Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Jenkins was born May 7, 1928, in Honeygrove, Texas. She married Arlin Jenkins on Aug. 20, 1949, in Memphis, Texas. He preceded her in death in 1993.

She farmed most of her young life in Memphis, moving to Pampa in February of 1951 where she had been a resident ever since.

Audrey was a member of Hobart Baptist Church. She always put her family and friends before herself. Above all, she will be remembered as a great mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.

Survivors include one daughter, Patricia Eastham and husband Keith of Pampa; two sons, Allen Jenkins of Pampa and David Jenkins and wife Karen of Amarillo;



Jenkins

two sisters, Lucile Bell and husband Bill of Honeygrove, and Bettie Jones and husband John of Caldwell; five grandsons, Christopher Archibald and wife Mandy, Matthew Archibald, David Allen Jenkins and Jacob Jenkins, all of Pampa, and Bradley Jenkins of Amarillo; one granddaughter, Amanda Jenkins of Pampa; and five great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a brother, Jay Nunnelley; and five sisters, Mary Alice Frichie, Bobbie Jean Jenkins, Ruby Hinds, Mildred Mann and Eva Nunnelley.

MEMORIALS: Pampa United Way, 200 N. Ballard, Pampa, TX 79065.

The family will receive friends at 901 E. Kentucky in Pampa.

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

Thelma Gray-Moore, 94

Thelma Gray-Moore, 94, of Pampa, died Feb. 13, 2008, at Bedford, Texas.

Services are pending with Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

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

whatley.com.

Emergency Services

Pampa PD

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

Twenty-five traffic stops were made. Stops at the intersection of Somerville and Sumner streets and the 100 block of West Foster resulted in arrests.

A traffic complaint was received from the intersection of Hobart and Alcock streets.

Motorist assistance was rendered in the 100 block of South Hobart.

Vehicle accidents were reported in the police department lobby, the 300 block of West Randy Matson and the 600 block of East Frederic.

Animal control officers made stops concerning animals in the 1300 block of Terrace, the 600 block of

Carr, the 800 block of Murphy, the 600 block of North Dwight, the 500 block of North Sumner and the 500 block of Fisher.

Agency assistance was rendered at the intersection of Price Road and Alcock Street.

Found property was reported in the police department lobby. A cell phone was found.

Runaways were reported in the 400 block of North Cuyler and at Pampa Junior High School, 2401 Charles.

A welfare check was made in the 1200 block of North Wells.

A civil matter was reported in the police department lobby.

Suspicious person calls were received from the 200 block of East Frederic and the 1000 block of Varnon Drive. At least one arrest

was made in connection with the incident in the 700 block of East Frederic.

Suspicious vehicle calls were received from the 1800 block of North Nelson and the 1900 block of Duncan.

A silent/abusive 911 call was received from the 200 block of Hamilton.

Violation of a city ordinance was reported in the 800 block of East Frederic and the 2300 block of Comanche.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 200 block of North Wells and the 1300 block of Terrace.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 200 block of West Brown. A window valued at \$300 was damaged.

Narcotics violations were twice reported in the 1000 block of North Sumner. At least one arrest was made in connection with the first incident.

Assault was reported in the 1500 block of North Banks and the 1300 block of North Christine.

A sexual offense was reported in the police depart-

ment lobby.

One building check was made.

Theft was reported at Rent-A-Center, 1700 N. Hobart. A home theater system valued at \$4,054.96 was taken.

Theft was reported in the 700 block of Scott. A fuse valued at \$100 was taken from a fuse box.

Theft was reported in the 1000 block of Darby. An arrest was made in connection with the incident.

Theft was reported in the 200 block of North Wells. A bottle of hydrocodone tablets valued at \$50 and \$50 in cash were taken from a vehicle.

Sheriff

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

Wednesday, Feb. 13

Mary Tiffany Martin, 29, of Boulder Creek, Calif., was arrested by Texas Department of Public Safety for possession of more than 50 pounds but less than 2,000 pounds of marijuana.

Arnoldo Gonzales, 69, of Pampa was arrested in the 1200 block of North Wells by Pampa Police Department for evading arrest/detention with a vehicle, no valid driver's license, failure to maintain financial responsibility, no operator's driver's license and a capias pro fine for failure to maintain financial responsibility.

Aaron Ace Acevedo, 24, of Dalhart was arrested by GCSO on a probation violation for theft over \$50 and under \$500.

Robert Allemand, 35, of Clarendon was arrested by GCSO on a probation violation for making a false statement to obtain property or credit.

Larry Jerome Dominguez, 30, of Odessa was arrested by GCSO on a probation violation for driving while intoxicated.

Anthony Glenn Sohl, 27, of Pampa was arrested in the 1000 block of Darby by PPD on capias pro fines for failure to appear and no driver's license.

Leonardo Alonzo III, 30, of Weslaco was arrested by

GCSO for burglary of a building.

Ronald Gene Manry, 46, of Pampa was arrested in the 1000 block of North Sumner by PPD for possession of marijuana.

Thursday, Feb. 14

Thomas Dale Jede Jr., 20, of Pampa was arrested in the 700 block of East Frederic by PPD for possession of drug paraphernalia, failure to appear/bail jumping and a bond forfeiture for making a terroristic threat.

Fire

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

Tuesday, Feb. 12

1:05 p.m. — Two units and six personnel responded to the 800 block of Campbell on a grass fire.

9:57 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 400 block of Magnolia on a carbon monoxide investigation.

Wednesday, Feb. 13

1:47 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the intersection of Randy Matson and Williston on a motor vehicle accident.

1:57 p.m. — Two units and four personnel responded to the 800 block of East Browning for a public education program.

2:18 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 2700 block of Cherokee on a first responder call.

3:44 p.m. — Three units and six personnel responded to the 200 block of Davis on a grass fire.

5:17 p.m. — Six units and 11 personnel responded to the 200 block of South Nelson on a grass fire.

7:12 p.m. — Three units and eight personnel responded to the 2200 block of North Hobart on a fire alarm.

9:55 p.m. — Two units and seven personnel responded to the 1100 block of South Hobart on a rubbish fire.

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Reception at Peggy's Place

Sugar refinery blast results in another death, eighth so far

ATLANTA (AP) — A man burned in last week's sugar refinery explosion near Savannah died Thursday in a hospital burn unit, bringing the death toll to at least eight.

Michael Kelly Fields, 40, died at the Joseph M. Still Burn Center at Doctors Hospital in Augusta, Ga., spokeswoman Beth Frits said.

Fourteen people burned during the Feb. 7

explosion at the Imperial Sugar Co. plant in Port Wentworth remained in critical condition, she said. Two others were in serious condition.

Seven people were found dead in the rubble at the plant. One worker was still missing.

Sugar dust is thought to be the cause of the blast.

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HEART WARMING

Iraq vet gives life back

DALLAS (AP) — Christopher Saucedo served his country in Iraq, then gave life to a 14-year-old boy at home.

But the former Army sergeant, who now installs air conditioners in San Antonio, is surprised that people consider him a hero.

Facing television cameras recently, moments after he met the Grand Prairie teen to whom he donated bone marrow, the 27-year-old Saucedo seemed shocked and a bit embarrassed at the attention.

"I wasn't expecting any of this," he said. "I'm very happy, excited, overjoyed."

More outgoing was Raquel Garay, 47, mother of Richard Garay, who was declared cured of a usually fatal blood disease because of Saucedo's donation.

As the two families prepared to meet in the lobby of the Bright Building at Children's Medical Center Dallas, Garay said she promised herself she would not cry a promise that vanished within seconds after she hugged Saucedo.

"You're an angel with no wings," she told him. "But I'm sure if God would let me, I would put them on you. Thank you. My son is alive."

In autumn 2004, Garay first noticed that her son, who had always been healthy, was lethargic and had unexplained bruises.

Late one afternoon a few weeks later, a school official brought Richard home. He had collapsed.

Garay rushed him to the emergency room.

"They gave him tests, and then one doctor came into the room, and then another," she recalled. "When all these doctors start coming in, you know something is happening."

Her son had leukemia, they said, and two weeks to live at most.

The diagnosis was wrong. Richard had a plastic anemia, in which the immune system attacks the bone marrow.

And blood transfusions would keep him

alive for months.

But if death was not quite so near, it seemed no less inevitable.

"Most children who have it don't live into adulthood," said Dr. Jennifer Cox, the hematologist who oversaw Richard's treatment.

Physicians tried to defeat the disease with a variety of strategies, including one in which cells from horse blood were injected into Richard's veins.

Nothing worked, and a transplant was ordered.

But tests on family members, which result in matches about a quarter of the time, were unsuccessful.

As a Hispanic, Richard faced additional odds, said Cox, an assistant professor at UT Southwestern Medical Center and a physician at Children's

Medical Center.

"It's always harder for nonwhites," she said. "There are fewer donors, and you have more complex genetic histories."

Unknown at the time was that a matching donor had already signed up and was serving in Iraq.

At the same time Richard was fighting for his life, Saucedo was stationed in central Baghdad "10 minutes from everything," he said.

Saucedo was not always so far away. Back in San Antonio, he lived only blocks from Richard's grandmother.

"Whenever I visited, I may have passed by him," Garay said. "I think it shows that God wanted this to happen."

Saucedo declined to discuss his experiences in Iraq in detail.

Asked whether he saw much action, Saucedo replied only: "I saw my share."

Two years earlier, he had responded to a plea for blood marrow donors by signing up.

He said he did so for the same reason he joined the military.

Physicians tried to defeat the disease with a variety of strategies, including one in which cells from horse blood were injected into Richard's veins.

Boone

Continued from Page 1

pump underground water from the massive Ogallala Aquifer that lies beneath much of the panhandle and sell it to major metropolitan areas, such as Dallas, Fort Worth, San Antonio and El Paso, that were looking for new

sources of water.

Citing water rights being bought up by the Canadian River Municipal Water Authority and the City of Amarillo a decade ago, Pickens said he had no choice but to try and pump and sell his water in order to keep from having the water sucked out from beneath his ranch.

Under state law, a landowner is entitled to pump all the water he can

from beneath his property as long as it is done for a beneficial use and not maliciously pumped to harm his neighbors.

Mesa Water has more than 200,000 acres of water rights in the Northeast Texas Panhandle.

The only other person to have filed for the Roberts County seat on the water district board is Steve Hale.

County

Continued from Page 1

used in Gray County for the Pampa campus. The maximum amount of tax that could be collected is five cents per \$100 valuation of taxable property.

Lee Porter of the foundation said in the Aug. 31 meeting that funds raised by the maintenance tax could be used to reduce tuition, provide new programs

and/or maintain the facility.

A countywide burn ban, which has been in effect since commissioners' Jan. 15 meeting, is on Friday's agenda. Commissioners will discuss whether to continue the ban or lift it. Dry weather with low humidity, dry vegetation and frequent high winds were cited as the reasons for imposing the ban, which prohibits all outdoor burning anywhere in the county, including burning of rural residents' household trash.

A number of wildfires have occurred in Gray County in recent weeks,

including one on Jan. 28 on the Bowers Ranch, where approximately 25,000 acres burned. Power lines downed by high winds have sparked structure fires, including two on Jan. 28 in Pampa.

Commissioners will discuss purchase of a data card group ID program, receive a racial profiling report for 2007 from the Precinct 2 constable, recognize the county clerk and district clerk for completing continuing education and hear the county treasurer's report.

Bids for roof repairs at Perry LeFors Airport will be opened at 10 a.m. during

Fire destroys mobile home in Amarillo

AMARILLO, Texas (AP) — Firefighters used aerial water dumps to help put out grass fires that broke out in the Amarillo area Wednesday.

The fires destroyed a mobile home and damaged some outbuildings, but authorities said no one was injured.

It wasn't immediately clear how many acres were burned in the fires.

While the blazes in northwest Amarillo remain under investigation, authorities think they are the result of arson, the Amarillo Globe-News reported in its online edition Wednesday.

Mayor Debra McCartt and Potter County Judge Arthur Ware signed an emergency declaration for Amarillo.

Some streets remained closed and a shelter has been set up at a church.

Happy Valentine's Day
from
The Pampa News

Theft

Continued from Page 1

Hoard said.

The suspect is described as being 6 feet tall, weighing 180 pounds and wearing a black leather jacket and a beanie-type cap or headgear at the time of the robbery. No information was available on whether the man was

Fishing award



Courtesy Photo

Benny Baker, right, accepts an award from Keith Woods at a recent High Plains Bass Anglers Awards Dinner. Baker was one of the 2007 top 10 finishers with 44.40 pounds caught.

Meth

Continued from Page 1

phetamine lab." Four Pampa residents were arrested at the scene and booked into Gray County Jail on a charge of manufacture/delivery

of a controlled substance. The four are Bryan Christopher Humphrey, 19; Nicole Sharee Ramey, 25; Hugh Jackson Parman, 20; and Jacob Wayne Jenkins, 17.

Evidence found at the scene was sent to the Texas Department of Public Safety lab for processing, according to Brown.

in a vehicle or what type of vehicle was used in connection with the incident.

"The clerk was alone, and apparently the perpetrator was, as well," Hoard said. No one else was in the store at the time of the robbery.

Aggravated robbery is a first-degree felony offense, he said.

The case remains open and under investigation. Anyone with information concerning the incident is

asked to call the sheriff's office at 669-8022.

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GCAD

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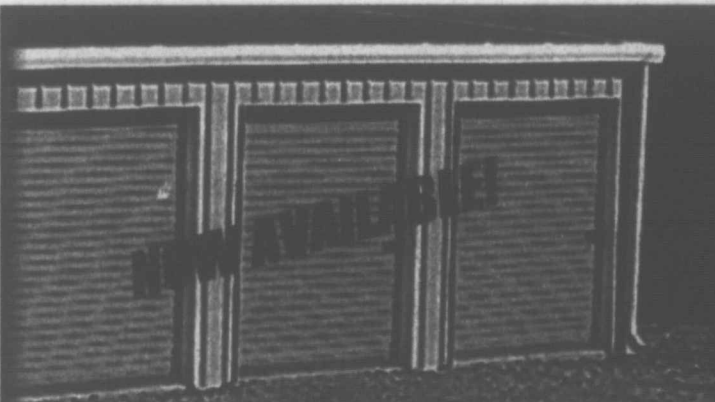
elected to the board. Board members serve two-year terms.

The board heard a scheduled late protest and approved changes as provided by Sections 25 and 51 of the Texas Property Tax Code.

Chief Appraiser Pat Bagley gave a report during the meeting.

Friday's meeting. Commissioners will also consider declaring a 1992 Chevrolet Blazer in Precinct 4 as surplus property and seeking bids for the Blazer, with deadline for the bids on 10 a.m. March 17.

Four bids on tax-delinquent property will be presented for commissioners' approval. They are: Brandon Young, \$200, a lot on Clark Street; Robert Mack, \$300, a lot on Gillespie Street; and Harold Chester, bids of \$100 each for two lots on Malone Avenue.



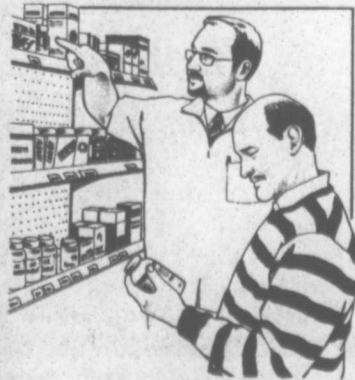
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Viewpoints

What are your wearing this election year?

Two electronic news releases here at The News recently caught my eye. Did you know there is a place that actually specializes in "election wear?" Yup. I kid you not.

YourNameCampaign.com is the place to go for your election wardrobe. No matter who you vote for, YourNameCampaign.com has the clothing for you ... or so YourName claims.

My thought is, what happens to YourName when it's not an election year?

"YourNameCampaign.com," the e-news release said, "allows anyone in the United

States to declare their own independent campaign for President, Congress, or Senate with more than 60 different products. From hats and T-shirts to baby gear and bathrobes, candidates of all ages will find something to wear. With more than 89,000 names for sale every day, over 99 percent of the country can find their name for sale. Can't find yours? Just ask and a new name can be added in a matter of hours, if not minutes."

Well, that IS impressive and certainly answers my question.

According to the e-news

release, YourName carries a full line of "negative-wear."

Ambivalent about the 2008 presidential candidates? No matter who or whom you dislike, YourName has the correct disparaging apparel for you.

Meanwhile, a "media news brief" from merilee@kerncommunications suggests the ultimate best way to get organized is to follow the "expert" advice at CableOrganizer.com.

CableOrganizer.com can, the press release declares, help you achieve lift-off."

So ... if you are constructing a space shuttle at your home or business, CableOrganizer might be the site for you.

Once I discovered the news release had no suggestions for organizing doggy toys, I quickly lost interest. Now, if someone were to try to sell me (at a reasonable price, of course) an organiz-

er for pet toys that would somehow spare me major foot trauma to own, I might actually buy something.

Note to readers: Never buy your dogs "hooves" then walk around your home barefoot. Ditto for bones.

You know what? Forget the organizer. What I need is a receptacle that RETRIEVES pet toys before I can mutilate my foot on them.

Since my Labrador is hyperactive, I buy her only the hardest of bones from the pet store. We're talking granite. No other dog I've known, including a Great

Dane that has sadly passed on, has made any inroads in these particular bones, except ... my Labrador.

She loves stuffed animals, but that's because she thrives on the sport of "deconstruction." I swear, she probably times herself to see how quickly she can destroy little stuffed critters. A fact which, really, is extremely unfair to my other dog. She loves stuffed animals too but for kinder, gentler reasons. She likes to cuddle them. Fortunately, she is a born nurturer.

Alack and alas, (sigh), the Labrador is not.

Skyla Bryant

News Editor



Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Feb. 14, the 45th day of 2008. There are 321 days left in the year. This is Valentine's Day.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 14, 1929, the "St. Valentine's Day Massacre" took place in a Chicago garage as seven rivals of Al Capone's gang were gunned down.

On this date:

In 1778, the American ship Ranger carried the recently adopted Star and Stripes to a foreign port for the first time as it arrived in France.

In 1859, Oregon was admitted to the Union as the 33rd state. In 1894, comedian Jack Benny was born Benjamin Kubelsky in Waukegan, Ill.

In 1895, Oscar Wilde's final play, "The Importance of Being Earnest," opened at the St. James' Theatre in London.

In 1903, the Department of Commerce and Labor was established. (It was divided into separate departments of Commerce and Labor in 1913.)

In 1912, Arizona became the 48th state of the Union.

In 1920, the League of Women Voters was founded in Chicago; its first president was Maud Wood Park.

In 1962, First lady Jacqueline Kennedy conducted a televised tour of the White House.

In 1979, Adolph Dubs, the U.S. ambassador to Afghanistan, was kidnapped in Kabul by Muslim extremists and killed in a shootout between his abductors and police.

In 1988, Broadway composer Frederick Loewe, who wrote the scores for "My Fair Lady" and "Camelot," died in Palm Springs, Calif., at age 86.

Ten years ago: Authorities officially declared Eric Rudolph a suspect in the bombing of a Birmingham, Ala., abortion clinic and offered a \$100,000 reward. Russia's Ilya Kulik won the men's figure skating gold medal at the Nagano Olympics.

Five years ago: In a dramatic showdown, major powers rebuffed the United States in the U.N. Security Council and insisted on more time for weapons inspections in Iraq. Earlier, chief U.N. weapons inspector Hans Blix told the Council his teams had not found any weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. "Dolly" the cloned sheep was put down after premature aging and disease marred her short existence and raised questions about the practicality of copying life.

Today's Birthdays: TV personality Hugh Downs is 87. Actress-singer Florence Henderson is 74. Country singer Razy Bailey is 69. Jazz musician Maceo Parker is 65. Movie director Alan Parker is 64. Journalist Carl Bernstein is 64. Sen. Judd Gregg (R-New Hampshire) is 61. TV personality Pat O'Brien is 60. Magician Teller (Penn and Teller) is 60. Cajun singer-musician Michael Doucet is 57. Actor Ken Wahl is 51. Opera singer Renee Fleming is 49. Actress Meg Tilly is 48. Singer-producer Dwayne Wiggins is 47. Actor Enrico Colantoni is 45. Actor Zach Galligan is 44.

THE PAMPA NEWS

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How to keep your virtual desktop neat

The typical office desk never gets dusty. It has so much paper stacked on it, that dust never reaches the wooden surface. The same problem can occur on your Windows desktop. As you install more programs onto your computer, your desktop icon collection grows. Eventually, you can't see the pretty wallpaper on your screen because it's behind all of that iconic garbage.

Maybe you want to remove some (or all) of those pesky icons, but you're afraid of messing something up on your system. Well, fear not. Here's the tried-and-true, totally safe method of deleting excess icons:

First, let's get everything in straight rows. Right click (click the right mouse button) anywhere on the desktop (but not over an icon). One of your menu options is "arrange icons." With your left mouse button click, choose "by name." This option will sort all of your

icons alphabetically. To keep your icons in straight rows from now on, put a checkmark next to the "auto arrange" option.

Take a look at your icons. You will notice that some of them have little white boxes containing black curvy arrows. These icons are shortcuts. A shortcut is not a

program. It is simply a little pointer giving you quick access to the program. Deleting the pointer (shortcut), just deletes that little file, not the associated program. As a very crude analogy, if I were to chop down a highway sign that said, "Las Vegas, 40 miles," I would not be destroying Las Vegas itself, just the sign pointing the way. (I told you it was a crude analogy.)

To sum up: You may safely delete shortcut icons with

no fear of harming your system.

Deleting those shortcuts is quite easy. You have a variety of methods available. First, you can simply drag them to the recycle bin. Second, you could single-click on one icon and then hit the "DEL" or "delete" key on your keyboard.

Third, you could right-click on an icon and choose "delete." You should choose the method easiest for you.

As you've probably noticed, not all of your icons are shortcuts. Can you delete them? Well, it depends. The following icons should be left alone: My Documents, Network Neighborhood, My Computer, Recycle Bin, Internet Explorer (the blue "e").

These are default programs and really don't fall

under the shortcut description. Windows will complain if you try to remove them.

Once again, remember this: Deleting an icon does not necessarily delete the associated program. To delete the program, you need to take a different route.

Click your start button, then settings. Choose control panel. Double-click on the "add/remove programs" icon. You will see a list of EVERY program installed on your system. Simply single-click on the program you want to remove and hit the add/remove button at the bottom. Every file, folder, and icon associated with that program will be deleted. This is a great way to free up hard disk space if you're running low.

Another way to clean your desktop revolves around the effective use of folders. Let's say you share your computer with the kids. Their program icons are mixed with yours.

See SPELL, Page 7

Eric Spellmann
Columnist



Texas Thoughts

By The Associated Press

editorial opinion around Texas:

n Feb. 3

San Antonio Express-News on backsliding on ethics reform law:

When it comes to ethics reform on Capitol Hill, Congress advertises a lot of sizzle but delivers very little substance. The vaunted Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007 pushed by Democrats was supposed to fundamentally change the way Washington does business. In fact, the more things change, the more they stay the same.

Members of Congress and special interests already are whittling away at the new law. The House ethics committee backtracked on a provision that clearly bans lobbyists from hosting parties honoring lawmakers at the presidential conventions. The ethics lords have determined that as

A sample of edi-

long these high-dollar events don't actually specify an honoree, they're permissible.

With pork barrel spending and wasteful earmarks, it's the same story. Despite new rules and disclosure requirements, members of Congress secured more than 11,000 earmarks with a cost to taxpayers of \$15 billion in 2007, according to Taxpayers for Common Sense.

Rules that were supposed to require disclosure of bundlers of campaign contributions are on hold. A partisan impasse has prevented the Senate from filling four vacant seats on the six-member Federal Election Commission. Without FEC action to implement the rules, it's money-bagging business as usual.

A House Ethics Task Force recommended in December the creation of an independent, six-member panel to review ethics allegations against members. But the proposed Office of Congressional Ethics would lack power

See ETHICS, Page 7

BUSINESS REVIEW

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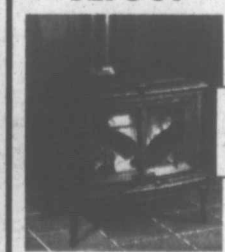
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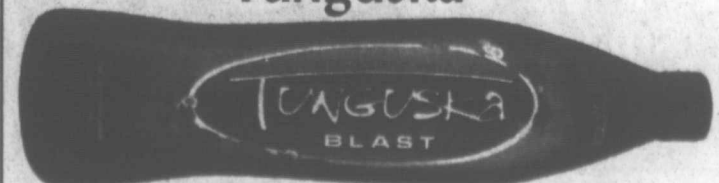


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Valentine's Day



Valentine's Day started in the time of the Roman Empire. In ancient Rome, February 14th was a holiday to honour Juno. Juno was the Queen of the Roman Gods and Goddesses. The Romans also knew her as the Goddess of women and marriage. The following day, February 15th, began the Feast of Lupercalia.

The lives of young boys and girls were strictly separate. However, one of the customs of the young people was name drawing. On the eve of the festival of Lupercalia the names of Roman girls were written on slips of paper and placed into jars. Each young man would draw a girl's name from the jar and would then be partners for the duration of the festival with the girl whom he chose. Sometimes the pairing of the children lasted an entire year, and often, they would fall in love and would later marry.

Under the rule of Emperor Claudius II Rome was involved in many bloody and unpopular campaigns. Claudius the Cruel was having a difficult time getting soldiers to join his military leagues. He believed that the reason was that roman men did not want to leave their loves or families. As a result, Claudius cancelled all marriages and engagements in Rome. The good Saint Valentine was a priest at Rome in the days of Claudius II. He and Saint Marius aided the Christian martyrs and secretly married couples, and for this kind deed Saint Valentine was apprehended and dragged before the Prefect of Rome, who condemned him to be beaten to death with clubs and to have his head cut off. He suffered martyrdom on the 14th day of February, about the year 270. At that time it was the custom in Rome, a very ancient custom, indeed, to celebrate in the month of February the Lupercalia, feasts in honour of a heathen god. On these occasions, amidst a variety of pagan ceremonies, the names of young women were placed in a box, from which they were drawn by the men as chance directed.

The pastors of the early Christian Church in Rome endeavored to do away with the pagan element in these feasts by substituting the names of saints for those of maidens. And as the Lupercalia began about the middle of February, the pastors appear to have chosen Saint Valentine's Day for the celebration of this new feast. So it seems that the custom of young men choosing maidens for valentines, or saints as patrons for the coming year, arose in this way.

Gradually, February 14 became the date for exchanging love messages and St. Valentine became the patron saint of lovers. The date was marked by sending poems and simple gifts such as flowers. There was often a social gathering or a ball.

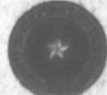
In the United States, Miss Esther Howland is given credit for sending the first valentine cards. The town of Loveland, Colorado, does a large post office business around February 14. The spirit of good continues as valentines are sent out with sentimental verses and children exchange valentine cards at school.

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COURTESY PHOTO

Business Professionals of America Chapter at Pampa High School recently participated in regional competition at Amarillo College in Amarillo. Rachel Bartel, Chelsea Cain, Senecia Becker and Jessica Tabor placed fifth and made state alternate in "administrative support team." Bartel, state alternate, also placed fifth in "banking and finance." Cain placed third in "basic office systems and procedures"; Becker second in "legal office procedures"; and Krista Shults, state alternate, fourth in "payroll accounting." Both Cain and Becker qualified for state. The state competition will be March 3-5 in Dallas followed by the national competition May 8-11 in Reno, Nev. Above, from left: Bartel, Robert Rivas, Cain, Becker, Tabor, Shults and Mistie Orr. The chapter is sponsored by Beverly Jordan.

NATIONAL

Hurricane victims urged to move after tests detect toxic fumes

ATLANTA (AP) — U.S. health officials are urging that Gulf Coast hurricane victims be moved out of their government-issued trailers as quickly as possible after tests found toxic levels of formaldehyde fumes.

Fumes from 519 trailer and mobile homes in Louisiana and Mississippi were — on average — about five times what people are exposed to in most modern homes, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In some trailers, the levels were nearly 40 times customary exposure levels, raising fears that residents could contract respiratory problems.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency — which supplied the trailers — should move people out quickly, with priority given to families with children, elderly people or anyone with asthma or other chronic conditions, said Mike McGeehin, director of a CDC division that focuses on environmental hazards.

"We do not want people exposed to this for very much longer," McGeehin said.

While there are no federal safety standard for formaldehyde fumes in homes, the levels found in the trailers are high enough to cause burning eyes and breathing problems for people who have asthma or sensitivity to air pollutants, said McGeehin.

CDC officials said the study did not prove people became sick from the fumes, but merely took a snapshot reading of fume levels. Only formaldehyde was tested, they added.

FEMA provided about 120,000 travel trailers to victims of the 2005 hurricanes

Katrina and Rita. In 2006, some occupants began reporting headaches and nosebleeds.

The complaints were linked to formaldehyde, a colorless gas with a pungent smell used in the production of plywood and resins.

Commonly used in manufactured homes, formaldehyde can cause respiratory problems and has been classified as a carcinogen by the International Agency for Research on Cancer and as a probable carcinogen by the U.S. Environmental

Protection Agency.

Last May, FEMA officials dismissed findings by environmentalists that the trailers posed serious health risks. They said the trailers conformed to industry standards.

By August, about 1,000 families in Louisiana asked FEMA to move them to other quarters. In November, lawyers for a group of hurricane victims asked a federal judge to order FEMA to test for hazardous fumes.

The CDC, working with FEMA, hired a contractor. The firm — Bureau Veritas North America — tested air samples from 358 travel trailers, 82 park model and 79 mobile homes.

Analysis of the samples, taken from Dec. 21 through Jan. 23, came back last week, McGeehin said.

They found average levels of 77 parts formaldehyde per billion parts of air, significantly higher than the 10 to 17 parts per billion concentration seen in newer homes. Levels were as high as 590 parts per billion.

'We do not want people exposed to this for very much longer.'

— Mike McGeehin
CDC official

Ethics

Continued from Page 4

ways. The only surprise this time is how quickly the sequel is playing out.

The Democratic majority can halt this slide and put some real ethics meat on the table by enforcing the ethics laws as they were intended and creating an ethics office with real powers to root out corruption and enforce ethics rules. URL: <http://www.mysa.com>

Spell

Continued from Page 4

Create a folder for each family member and put their icons in those folders. Here's how.

Right click on the desktop and choose, "new..." and then "folder." A new folder will appear with an "untitled" label. Type the name of the family member. Then, just drag their icons and drop them on the

folder. When little Johnny wants to play his "Die Barney Die" shoot-em-up game, he just needs to double-click on his folder. It's that simple.

One final note: You may not need to worry about cleaning off your desktop. First, by default, Windows places very few icons on your desktop. Second, every 60 days or so, Windows will move any icons you haven't used during that time into a hidden area, thereby doing a little proactive cleaning on it's own. And, yes, that is a feature you can turn off.

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Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: Valentine's Day is once again upon us. As a single woman, I have recognized that even on this day one can feel completely left out of things. So, last year I started a new tradition with my single women friends. On Valentine's Day we meet for dinner. We call it "Singles Appreciation Day." Last year we had a great time together, and this year should be even more fun. Singlehood is not something to cry about. It's something to celebrate and enjoy, just as we would the state of marriage when we find the right person. People need to learn to appreciate the value of each phase of life as we enter it. For now, I am happily appreciating the stage of being single. — **SANDY IN NORTH HIGHLANDS, CALIF.**

DEAR SANDY: I'm sure I'm not the only person who admires your positive and intelligent attitude about the journey we all make through life. Today, more and more people are choosing to remain single into their late 20s and 30s — and Valentine's Day seems to have become less a holiday and more of a marketing campaign that makes the unattached feel adrift, alone and often depressed. A wise person told me years ago that we are as happy as we make up our minds to be — and I hope more singles will learn from your example.

DEAR ABBY: Last year on Valentine's Day I had many errands to run, so I started at my favorite coffee shop at 7 a.m. At a table in front of me was an elderly couple who were already eating. I enjoy people-watching, and it was easy to observe them. The man was having trouble opening his little package of jelly. I almost went over to help him. Why didn't I? Because he was there with a lady. Sister, wife, friend? I couldn't see her left hand. If I had offered help, it might have embarrassed him. This was a buffet breakfast. As I ate, I watched him make several slow trips for food. He

put milk and sugar in her dry cereal. He cut her food and twice wiped her mouth with her napkin. He put sugar and cream in her coffee and stirred it. When they finally finished, he helped her from her chair, helped her with her coat, straightened out her folding walker, held her arm as they left and helped her into an older model car. That vignette made my day. Were they sweethearts? I don't know, but there certainly was a lot of love there. Not a word was spoken, but I'm sure the message was received. We could use more of that kind of "conversation" every day, not just on Valentine's Day. — **S. FROM TENNESSEE**

DEAR S. FROM TENNESSEE: The demonstration of love and commitment that you witnessed transcends any message that could be given verbally, or anything that could be written on a card. You saw a demonstration of the kind of commitment that is promised when people say to each other "in sickness and in health," but few people think through when they make that vow. Your letter touched my heart, and I thank you for sending it so I could share it with my readers on this day that celebrates love.

DEAR ABBY: My 94-year-old mother, who lives in a nursing home, has had so much fun making valentines for all her grandkids — ages 17 to 46. She sent a picture taken of herself in a bubble bath and wrote, "I hope your day is as happy as I am here in this picture. Proverbs 15:15, 'For the despondent every day brings troubles; for the happy heart, life is a continual feast!' Happy Valentine's Day!" I am so proud of her attitude. — **KATHY IN KENNEWICK, WASH.**

DEAR KATHY: And well you should be. Your mother sets an example we should all be fortunate enough to follow.

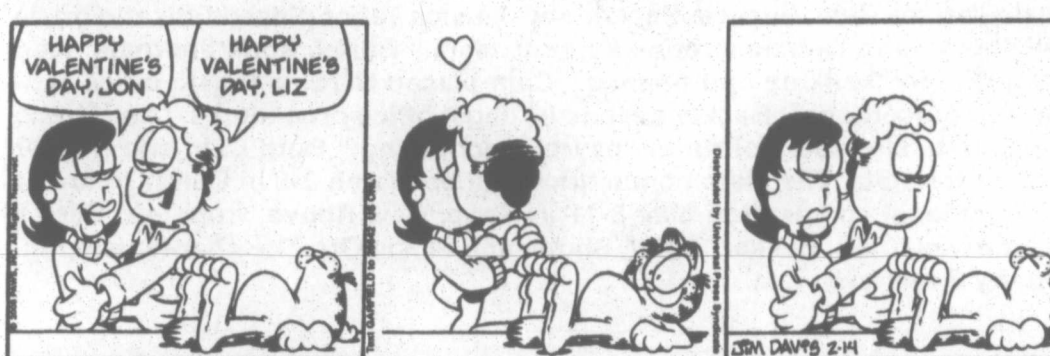
For Better Or For Worse



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B.C.



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Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

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1 Up

6 Knack

11 Thorough

investigation

12 Cyclist

Armstrong

13 Chart of

numbers

14 Early

Mexican

15 Puzzle

17 Spring

month

19 Squid's

defense

20 Chips buy

23 Trembling

trees

25 Visitor to

Oz

26 Doo-hickey

28 Look after

29 "Romeo and

Juliet" setting

30 Road curve

31 Puzzle

32 Went first

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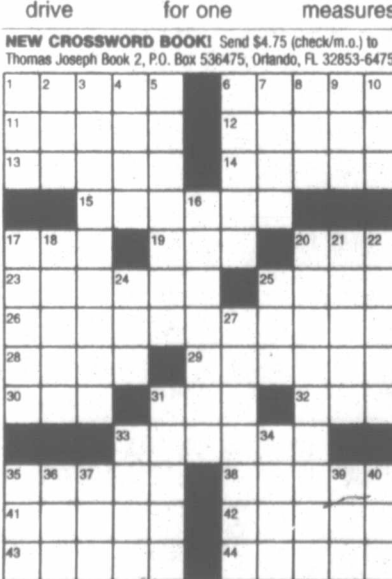
"Life"

43 Circus

sights



Yesterday's answer



Marmaduke



"Is that your dad's idea of taking Marmaduke for a walk?"

The Family Circus

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



"Cupid better use rubber-tipped arrows or somebody's gonna get hurt!"

Flo & Friends



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Noriega, McMurrey square off in debate at Texas university

AUSTIN (AP) — Democratic U.S. Senate candidates Rick Noriega and Ray McMurrey both pledged in a debate Wednesday to work to withdraw American troops from Iraq if they are elected but differed over how quickly to do it.

Their stances against the Iraq war drew repeated and loud applause before an audience at the University of Texas.

"That's why I'm running for the United States Senate, to bring our men and women home safely," said Noriega, a Houston legislator and lieutenant colonel in the Texas Army National Guard. He called the Iraq conflict "this misguided, mismanaged, misinformed debacle of occupation in Iraq."

McMurrey, a school teacher from Corpus Christi who has never held elected office, said

the biggest disappointment by incumbent Sen. John Cornyn is "the cheerleader position he has taken for the Iraq war."

While McMurrey said he wants a firm timetable for troop withdrawal, within 15 months, Noriega didn't commit to a timetable other than to say he wants to begin immediately removing troops from combat. He said that would force Iraqi politicians to start taking action, and then

American troops could be removed "as quickly and safely as possible."

Noriega, who spent 14 months in Afghanistan, said Cornyn and the Bush administration "don't know the difference between M&Ms and M-16s."

Cornyn's spokespeople declined to comment on any of the Democrats' criticism.

Most of the debate McMurrey criticized Noriega,

the better known and better funded of the two candidates, as being too connected to big money interests, including CenterPoint Energy, where Noriega is a marketing manager.

McMurrey called himself the true reformer and said Noriega hasn't been a leader in health care reform or campaign finance reform.

"I am the citizen candidate, the teacher, the political scientist, ready to tell the truth to the American public," McMurrey said. "Our democracy cannot be for sale."

Calling for public funding of elections, McMurrey said that would be one of his top priorities as senator.

"Public financing includes more people," he said.

McMurrey asked Noriega if he would work for public election funding. Noriega said he favors it, and more than once he noted the amount of money Cornyn has amassed for this

year's race.

Cornyn reported ending 2007 with \$7.5 million in available cash. Noriega reported raising \$936,000 since he began campaigning in July.

As he has done throughout the campaign, Noriega stuck mostly with attacking Cornyn, saying he hasn't represented the interests of Texans in the Senate because he has opposed expansion of children's health care and grants for college students.

Both Noriega and McMurrey said they want improved access and affordability in health care for everyone.

This was the Democrats' first head-to-head debate. It was co-hosted by the University Democrats of the University of Texas at Austin and Keep Austin Blue. Karen Brooks of The Dallas Morning News and Eileen Smith of Texas Monthly moderated the debate.



COURTESY PHOTO

Sixth Grade Choir

The sixth grade girls and boys choir at Pampa Junior High School recently performed for local elementary schools. Above: (back row, left-right) Ashlee Kieth, Bailey Wichert, Vanessa Ramirez, Daisy Vargas, Kieshia Johnson, Amanda Cline, Emily Miranda, Pamela Whinery, Jazmyn Hair, Falon Canaday, Iris Pepi; (fourth row) Danielle Kirby, Crystal Sandoval, Irasema Madrid, Makayla Gonzales, Margarita Mier, Emily Terry, Lacey Dodson, Taylor Smith, Alexa O'Brien, Madison Joyce, Taylor Giles; (third row) Ashlyn Paronto, Mattie Eldridge, Jessie Dixon, Michelle Rivera, Macy Cochran, Amber Blea, Ashton Standerfer, Niki Poland, Ileana Renteria, Brooke Woelfle, Sage Dorn, Daniela Vizcaino; (second row) Savanna Hulse, Kelly Silva, Kylee Metts, Bailey Dixon, Taylin Neff, Myra Tinajero, Vanessa Ramos, Bella Tarango, Alexis Arreola; (front row) Shasta Triplett, Sydney Taylor, Bryanna Espinoza Barraza, Cynthia Lara, Kayla Hughes, Bella Leal, Samantha Woodruff, Savanna Davis.

Events calendar

• **Amarillo College Lamplight Youth Theatre** Co. will open "Willy Wonka, Jr." Feb. 15-18 at the Amarillo Globe Center for the Performing Arts in Amarillo. The adaptation of Roald Dahl's classic story will include 59 youth theatre children ranging in age from 6 to 18. Performances are scheduled at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 15-16 and 2:30 p.m. Feb. 17-18. Tickets are available through Panhandle Tickets (806-378-3096 or www.panhandletickets.com). Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$10 for senior citizens and college students, and \$7 for high school students. No children under 3-years of age will be admitted.

• **Carl Williamson of Miami**, past president of Gray County Genealogy Society, will be guest speaker at the Texas-Oklahoma Panhandle Genealogy Society meeting at 6 p.m. Feb. 18 in the Gramstorff Room of Perryton Memorial Library in Perryton. Williamson will discuss his new book, "Battle of Buffalo Wallow," which includes the story of Billy Dixon as an army scout, Amos Chapman, and a small group of soldiers who defended the area near Canadian. The meeting is open to the public.

• **Friends of Aeolian-Skinner** will present two concerts St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 1601 S. Georgia, in Amarillo on Feb. 18 and 19. Both concerts will begin at 7 p.m. Organist Gerre Hancock will perform Feb. 18 at the church and "The King's Singers," a cappella ensemble, will perform Feb. 19.

• **The Red Hat Dollies Society** of Pampa will meet at 11 a.m. Feb. 21 at Pampa Senior Citizens

Center and for coffee at 9:30 a.m. March 4 at Harvester Donuts. For more information, call Rita at 669-9916, Vivian at 669-9297 or Emilie at 669-3580.

• **Participants have until Feb. 29** to enter the Miss Irish Rose Scholarship Pageant to be staged during the March 14-16 Saint Patrick's Celebration in Shamrock. The pageant is open to girls between the ages of 14 and 18. Eighteen-year-olds must still be in high school. The 2008 Miss Irish Rose, along with her three runner-ups and Miss Congeniality, will receive a scholarship to the college of their choice. For more information, call Betty at (806) 334-0929, Dana at (806) 662-5405 or Shamrock Chamber of Commerce at (806) 256-2501.

• **Tickets are currently available now** through March 14 for the Area Friends of the NRA banquet set to kick-off at 5:30 p.m. March 15 in the Heritage Room of the Amarillo Civic Center in Amarillo. Prime rib with all the trimmings will be served at 7 p.m. Dinner tickets are \$30 for adults, \$15 for participants 18 and under or \$50 per couple if purchased in advance. The deadline for advance ticket sales is the day prior to the banquet. A limited number of tickets will be available at the door. Tickets are available in Amarillo at Pro Shooters, Panhandle Gunslingers and A&K Shooters Supply. For more information, contact Connie at (806) 683-9079 or Bill at (806) 231-0771.

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Sports

Lady Harvester Soccer

Lady Harvesters start district play

by Katherine Flanary
Sports Editor

The Lady Harvester soccer team kicked off district play on Saturday, playing Caprock. Caprock struck first, scoring in the third minute of the game. The Lady Harvesters managed to keep most of the play at mid-field for the rest of the first half. At half, the score was 1-0, Caprock.

Midway through the second half, Caprock managed to score again, making the score 2-0. The Lady Harvesters retaliated with a goal from Angelica Pena that was assisted from Valerie Resendiz to make the score 2-1 with about ten minutes left to play.

The Lady Harvesters started pressing players forward late in the game in an attempt to get the goal that

would tie the game. Caprock moved in transition and put the game away with a goal to make the final score 3-1.

"I felt like we played well most of the game, but we have to start playing good soccer for the full 80 minutes," said Coach Davis Trent in an email. "We will get another chance at them when we play them the second time through district, and I believe we can pick up a win to help move us closer to our goal of making the play-offs."

The Lady Harvesters traveled to Borger on Tuesday to take on the Lady Bulldogs in their second district match of the season. The Lady Harvesters had two opportunities to score in the first half, neither of which resulted in a goal. At the half,

the score was 0-0.

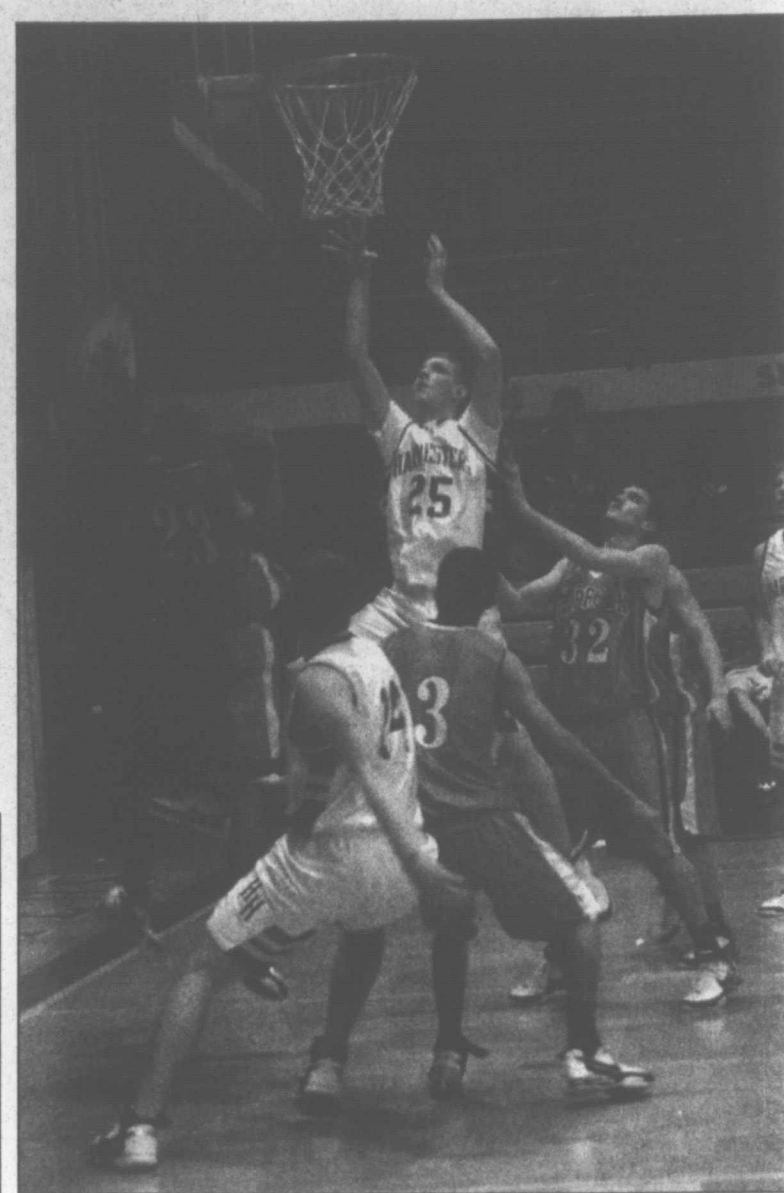
The game was up and down the field with both teams having chances to score in the second half. The best opportunity came with three minutes left to play. Kylee Wariner had a break away and was tackled in the Borger penalty box, but no whistle was blown for the penalty. The final score was 0-0.

"We obviously wanted to win the game, but we're pleased that we were able to play to a tie in Borger," said Trent.

"Borger is a tough place to play for a variety of reasons, so now we will just go back and work hard at practice and get ready for Canyon."

The Lady Harvesters will face Canyon this Saturday in Pampa at noon.

Basketball



Pampa NewsPhoto by Katherine Flanary

Mark Stone goes to shoot at the Harvester's game on Tuesday night.

Lady Buffs end road trip

WICHITA FALLS, Texas — A stifling Lady Buff defensive effort forced 31 turnovers which led to 44 points as the No. 17 West Texas A&M women's basketball team cruised to an 89-51 rout of Midwestern State Wednesday night at D.L. Ligon Coliseum. The 89-point output on offense ties a season-high for the Lady Buffs, matching an 89-point performance against New Mexico Highlands on Nov. 23.

The victory improves the Lady Buffs' overall mark this season to 17-4 including a 7-1 mark in Lone Star Conference South Division play. The Mustangs, meanwhile, fall to 9-13 on the season and 3-6 in league action.

Junior All-American Emily Brister, the LSC's leading scorer, produced a game-high 18 points in the contest, but was not alone on the list of Lady Buff standouts. Junior Chelsea Blackshear tied a career-high with 17 points, a figure which included a 5-of-6 shooting mark for three-point range, and junior Jamie Dreiling finished with 16 points on 7-of-15 shooting from the field.

The Lady Buffs got off to a cold shooting start in the contest, missing their first five shots from the field before getting their first two points on a pair of Brister free throws at the 16:52 mark. A three-pointer by Dreiling at 16:15 gave the Lady Buffs their first field goal of the night and a 5-2 advantage. Following a steal by Courtney Lee, a Dreiling lay-up extended the WT run to 7-0, which after MSU netted the game's opening field goal, gave the visitors a 7-2 lead.

Holly Isaacs' three-pointer at the 15:00 mark gave the Buffs a 10-2 advantage, but MSU's Brandy Moore answered with a long distance shot of her own on the ensuing Mustang possession. The Moore three was the start of a 5-0 run by the Mustangs which got them back at the game but still left them trailing, 12-7.

Back-to-back baskets by Brister and a three-pointer

from Blackshear gave the Buffs their first double-digit lead at 17-7 with 12:15 to play.

Another long distance shot from Blackshear was followed by a steal and layup by freshman Joni Unruh at the 8:22 mark, giving the Lady Buffs a 30-11 advantage. Turnovers were a problem for MSU in the game's first 20 minutes as the home squad was guilty of 17 in the period, leading to 24 Lady Buff points.

Another Isaacs three-pointer with just under four minutes to play pushed the WT lead to 40-18. The lead swelled to as many as 23, 41-18, at the 3:12 mark on a free throw by Megan McLain and from that point, the Lady Buffs cruised into halftime with a 43-26 lead.

After missing their first five shots of the period, WT found its groove, making 15 of their next 28 shots, for a percentage of 53.5. Dreiling and Brister topped the stat sheet at halftime with 11 points apiece.

Dixie Bell got the Lady Buffs' second half off the same torrid pace that the first ended, sinking a three-pointer on WT's opening possession of the period, spurring a 7-2 Lady Buff run.

Isaacs and Blackshear hit three-pointers within a minute and a half of one another to give the Lady Buffs a 59-35 lead with 13:07 to play in the game.

WT's Lee, who had been held scoreless in the first half, made her first basket at the 11:50 mark of the second half and added another running jumper during the Lady Buffs' next trip down the court. The Arlington, Texas, native finished with four points on the night.

After forcing 31 turnovers against Midwestern State last Saturday, WT has now forced 62 turnovers in their last two games.

The Lady Buffs return to action at home this Saturday as they host rival Eastern New Mexico in a 6 p.m. contest at the First United Bank Center.

Bufs go to overtime to win, 86-83

WICHITA FALLS, Texas — Trailing by as many as nine in the second half, the West Texas A&M men's basketball team rallied to force overtime and in the extra period made their first five shots to earn a hard-fought 86-83 victory over Midwestern State at D.L. Ligon Coliseum on Wednesday night.

The victory improves WT's overall record to 17-6 on the year and its mark in Lone Star Conference South Division play to 7-1. MSU, meanwhile, falls to 11-11 overall and 3-5 in league play.

Back-to-back three-pointers by Keon Grant and Tyler Cooper highlighted the Buffs' first two possession of the night giving them an early 6-2 advantage.

MSU battled back to take a 12-8 lead on a lay-up by Chris Davis at the 16:18 mark of the first half. The home serge continued as a basket by MSU at 9:51 gave them a 25-18 lead and forced a time out by WT coach Rick Cooper.

A three-pointer by Pierre Barlow with 49 seconds in the period to play tied the game at 36-36 and the Buffs were able to force a turnover on the ensuing MSU possession to get one last opportunity at the basket during the half. With only seven seconds remaining on the clock, Lee was fouled while driving to the basket. The Fort Worth, Texas, native made both free throw opportunities to send WT to the locker room leading by two at 38-36.

Lee was a force in the first half, scoring 15 points and making 7-of-8 free throw attempts in the period. For the game, the Fort Worth, Texas, native collected a team-high 30

points, doing much of his damage from the free throw line, where he was 14-of-17.

Back and forth action marked the opening minutes of the first half as the two teams exchanged field goals with neither team being able to pull away. MSU gained the upper hand with 15:30 to play as guard Nolan Richardson IV's three-pointer put the Mustangs up 47-42.

After an Andre Hill basket on the low block pulled the Buffs to within two at 47-45, Richardson sank another three to regain the give point MSU advantage at 50-45.

MSU was able to extend its lead to seven points 54-47, but a spectacular effort by Pierre Barlow cut it by three as he made a three-pointer after being fouled while making a lay-up. On the next possession, a steal by Tyler Cooper led to a wide open dunk slicing the MSU lead down to only two at 54-52.

The Mustangs responded with a 7-0 run to regain control of the contest at 61-52. The home lead would swell to as many as nine on three occasions, the last with 7:37 to play on a lay-up by Earl Rabb.

WT pulled within two points at 66-64 as Keon Grant converted a three-pointer the old fashion way, scoring while being fouled and making the ensuing free throw.

Lee pulled the Buffs to within one point, 68-67, by hitting one of two free throws with 1:22 to play, but a Richardson lay-up on the ensuing possession put the Mustangs back up three points, but Tyler Cooper broke free for a dramatic three-pointer with 42 seconds to play, tying the game at

70-70.

The Mustangs had the last opportunity to secure the victory in regulation, but a flurry of shots at the basket came up short and five more minutes were put on the clock.

After forcing a turnover on MSU's opening possession of overtime, it was Lee who put the Buffs up for the first time since the 19:22 mark of the second half. Following an MSU basket it was Lee again, draining a three pointer to put the Buffs up 75-72.

A pair of free throw cut the WT lead to only one, but again Lee dialed up a long distance field goal to put the Buffs up four, 78-74. Point guard Kyle Shields made it a six point advantage as he broke free on a back door play and converted an uncontested lay-up.

Andre Hill pulled down a big rebound on MSU next trip down the court and after good ball movement for WT, the ball found its way into Barlow's hand, who drained a long distance shot to put, the Buffs up 83-74.

MSU scored the next six points to make it a one possession-game at 83-80, but Hill made one of two free throws to put the Buffs up four. MSU's Jeremy Ford made a three pointer to make the score 84-83.

That would be as close as MSU would get as Barlow made a pair of free throws to secure the win.

The road-weary Buffs return home on Saturday to play their first game at the First United Bank Center since Jan. 23 when they host rival Eastern New Mexico.

Mavs don't let trade talk distract them

Dallas snapped out of a mini-slump in dominant fashion and more help could be on the way for the Mavericks — or maybe not.

Dirk Nowitzki scored a season-high 37 points and Jason Terry added 24, helping Dallas put aside talk of whether Jason Kidd is about to become their teammate and beat the Portland Trail Blazers 96-76 at home on Wednesday night.

"It was a weird day for everybody, having to play a game after all the talk," Nowitzki said. "But everybody was a professional and put on the uniform for the organization."

The Kidd trade appeared to be close to a done deal earlier in the day, but hit a snag because Dallas' Devean George opted out of it. He doesn't have a no-trade clause, but has the equivalent — a provision in

the collective bargaining agreement known as "early Bird rights," which he can protect by not consenting to any deal.

George started because of an injury to Josh Howard — and went 0-for-11. He had no points, four rebounds and two assists in 33 minutes.

"All the finger-pointing is at me," George said. "I'm the bad guy. I'll take that."

Meanwhile in Toronto, the New Jersey Nets made Kidd inactive for the game and were already talking about moving on without their All-Star point guard before getting pounded 109-91 by the Raptors.

"We're giving up a Hall of Fame point guard and some good role players," coach Lawrence Frank said. "If this deal goes through, we'll be receiving some very good players as well and a new era of Nets basketball will start

because Jason is that significant a player."

In the rest of a busy night in the NBA it was, Orlando 109, Denver 98; Philadelphia 102, Memphis 88; Charlotte 100, Atlanta 98, OT; San Antonio 112, Cleveland 105; Boston 111, New York 103; Detroit 96, Indiana 80; New Orleans 111, Milwaukee 107; L.A. Lakers 117, Minnesota 92; Houston 89, Sacramento 87; Golden State 120, Phoenix 118; Utah 112, Seattle 93; and Washington 91, L.A. Clippers 89.

The Mavericks had lost their last two games, blowing early 10-point leads with awful second halves each time. They made sure that didn't happen again, holding Portland to 33 points in the final two quarters on their way to a 10th straight home win.

Brandon Roy scored 25 points for Portland, which goes into the All-Star break

having lost four straight and six of eight. Still, the Trail Blazers may use their down time over the next week to savor going 28-24 so far after winning only 32 games all last season.

In addition to Howard's absence because of a back injury, Dallas also was without starting point guard Devin Harris (ankle) and key reserve Jerry Stackhouse (hamstring). A bigger distraction was talk that Harris and Stackhouse were part of a deal that would bring Kidd from New Jersey in a deal that also would include George and reserves DeSagana Diop and Maurice Ager.

Ignoring it all, Nowitzki got things rolling with 13 points in the first quarter and 20 by halftime. He finished 13-of-26, with a pair of 3-pointers and nine free throws. He also had 12 rebounds.

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Due to the state & National DO NOT CALL list for telemarketers, residents who have put their names on these lists cannot be contacted. To insure a complete updated directory, we will be updating everyone's listing through the US Postal Service. So watch for your letter in the mail. It is important that you check your listing and return to us any corrections or if you would like to purchase a City Directory.



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PHS Baseball Brisket Dinner

By Katherine Flanary
Sports Editor

February 17 will be the PHS Baseball Brisket Dinner. It will be held from 11 am to 2 pm at the Pampa Optimist Club.

Tickets for adults are \$10,

and tickets for children eight and younger cost \$5. Tickets are available at the door or through any coach or player.

The meal includes brisket, baked potato, beans, salad, bread, dessert and drinks.

Drive thru and take-out will also be available.

5 Special Notices

AS of this date, Feb. 11, 2008, I, Tabitha Ann Epperson Howard, will not be responsible for any other debts, other than those I make personally. Signed, Tabitha Howard.

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CDL Driver needed, pulling Belly Dumps. Drug test required. Call 662-5005 or 663-0528.

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A XYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

2-14 CRYPTOQUOTE

HUKOCGB EGC. FJYCCY.

KOC EVVCPKFUEKCEJY

CVVCPKFZC KCEPOCGB UV

KOC ORHEJ GEPC. —

YEJFCN SCQBKCG

Yesterday's Cryptquote: ONE LAUGH OF A CHILD WILL MAKE THE HOLIEST DAY MORE SACRED STILL. — ROBERT INGERSOLL

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, Feb. 15, 2008:

This year you will evolve even more and support yourself in key issues. Say no to manipulation. You could become even more responsive and creative, allowing for unusual solutions and dynamic thinking. At times a boss could be challenging, as he or she might be threatened by your endless source of ideas. Consider presenting some of your thoughts more subtly if you would like to succeed in your present situation. If you are single, you might opt to be unusually quiet about someone who enters your life. Romance will be active. This bond could prove to be very fortunate. If you are attached, add that touch of romance once more. Re-create a first date. Let the sparks flicker. GEMINI has fun with you.

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

Awards



Courtesy Photo

Harper Kelly and Sarah Gordzelik from Community Christian School recently won awards at the ACSI Speech Meet at the school.

Junior high student dies after being shot in head

OXNARD, Calif. (AP) — A 15-year-old boy who was shot in the head at school was declared brain dead Wednesday but was kept on a ventilator for possible organ donation, a medical examiner said.

Eighth-grader Lawrence King, who was shot Tuesday, was pronounced brain dead at 2 p.m. at St. John's Regional Medical Center after two neurosurgeons examined him, said Craig Stevens, senior deputy medical examiner in Ventura County.

King was clinically dead but was kept on a ventilator pending a family decision on organ donation, Stevens said.

Oxnard Police Department spokesman David Keith announced earlier that King was dead. "I'm sticking with my earlier statement. I was informed by the hospital that he has passed away," Keith said.

The spokesman said the teen's family asked police to not comment on King's medical condition.

The hospital referred inquiries to police.

An unidentified 14-year-old class-

mate arrested near E.O. Green Junior High after the shooting Tuesday was booked for investigation of attempted murder.

The charges could become more serious if King dies. He could face charges of murder and use of a firearm in commission of murder, prosecutor Greg Totten said.

Police have not alleged a motive for the shooting, but said there appeared to have been "bad blood" between the teens. Police said a handgun was used in the attack, which occurred with more than 20 other students in the room.

King had been under the care of the county foster care system and lived at Casa Pacifica, a nearby center for abused and neglected children, said Steve Elson, the facility's chief executive.

"We're all stunned and it's just an unspeakable tragedy," Elson said.

King had been receiving help from school support staff, district Superintendent Jerry Dannenberg said. He had no details on the type of assistance the teen needed.

School awards



Courtesy Photo

Ryan DeVuyst and Alicia Beddo won awards recently at a speech competition at Community Christian School.

Henry Winkler testifies in John Ritter lawsuit

GLENDALE, Calif. (AP) — Actor Henry Winkler took the witness stand Wednesday in a lawsuit over the death of actor John Ritter, telling jurors he had a conversation with his friend just hours before he died.

Winkler, who played The Fonz on "Happy Days," also gave the jury a testimonial to the comedic brilliance of Ritter, who was best known for the classic sitcom "Three's Company."

"He kept everyone laughing. He was a professional," Winkler said.

Ritter, at the time starring in the TV show "8 Simple Rules ... For Dating My Teenage Daughter," died Sept. 11, 2003, after suffering a tear in his aorta, known as an aortic dissection. He was 54.

Winkler testified that on the day of Ritter's death he was doing a guest appearance on "8 Simple Rules" and he did not suspect anything seriously wrong with his friend.

At one point, he said, they were recalling old times before they were due to perform an episode in which Winkler was to play Ritter's new boss.

"We were reminiscing," Winkler said. "He was sweating (and said) 'I really need to get some water.' I said 'I really need to memorize my lines.' And he went one way and I went the other. And that was the last time I saw him."

The lawsuit says Ritter was treated for a heart attack instead of the aortic dissection and seeks \$67 million from a radiologist who earlier gave Ritter a body scan and the cardiologist who treated him that day. The trial follows settlements with Providence St. Joseph Medical Center in Burbank and other medical personnel for about \$14 million.

Defense attorneys have told the jury that neither doctor was responsible for Ritter's death and that the body scan two years earlier showed his aorta was of normal size and there was no sign it would dissect.

Winkler said that a while after he saw Ritter the members of the cast were told to go home but weren't told what was wrong. He said he knew it was the fifth birthday of one of Ritter's children and thought perhaps he had decided to quit early to celebrate.

"At 9 at night I was called and told he was in the hospital and at 11 or 11:30 I was called to say, 'We have lost John,'" Winkler testified.

He told jurors Ritter had been thrilled that "lightning had struck again" and he had a new hit show.

"He loved everyone in the cast, and they loved him," he said.

Much of Winkler's testimony dealt with Ritter's devotion to his wife, Amy Yasbeck, and his four children.

Asked what he thought the children would miss most about their father, Winkler replied: "His pas-

BUSINESS

Yahoo turns to News Corp. to escape Microsoft takeover

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Yahoo Inc. hopes media conglomerate News Corp. can rescue it from a Microsoft Corp. takeover — or at least prove the slumping Internet pioneer is worth more money than its unsolicited suitor wants to pay.

A News Corp. partnership could provide Yahoo with the escape hatch that the Sunnyvale-based company has been seeking since Microsoft pounced with its takeover bid two weeks ago.

If nothing else, the possibility of Yahoo joining forces with one of the world's largest media empires could prompt Microsoft to sweeten its bid, which was originally valued at \$44.6 billion, or \$31 per share.

Yahoo is believed to want at least \$40 per share, or about \$56 billion.

The details of the proposed News Corp. alliance were still being worked out Wednesday, according to a person familiar with the situation. The person didn't want to be identified because the talks are considered confidential.

Most analysts believe Microsoft will do whatever necessary to buy Yahoo because the world's largest software maker views the acquisition as the best way to counteract Google Inc.'s dominance of the online search and ad markets — a battleground that is rapidly reshaping the technology and media industries.

"Buying Yahoo makes

tremendous sense for Microsoft, more sense than any other company in the world," said Ken Marlin, a New York investment banker specializing in media and technology deals.

Both The Wall Street Journal and a prominent blog, TechCrunch, reported that News Corp. is interested in folding its popular online social network, MySpace.com, and other Internet assets into Yahoo — an idea that first came up last year. News Corp. owns The Wall Street Journal.

News Corp. and a private equity firm reportedly would buy significant stakes in Yahoo as part of a complex deal designed to push the Sunnyvale-based company's market value toward \$50 billion.

A Yahoo spokesman said the company continues to "carefully and thoroughly" evaluate alternatives that will enrich its long-term shareholders. Yahoo's board reportedly is to meet again Thursday or Friday to consider the company's next move.

News Corp. spokeswoman Teri Everett declined to comment on the Yahoo talks.

Yahoo shares climbed 31 cents to \$29.88 Wednesday

while Microsoft shares gained 62 cents to \$28.96. News Corp. shares slipped 10 cents to finish at \$19.93.

Based on Microsoft's current market value, its cash-and-stock bid for Yahoo now stands at \$29.50 per share, or about \$41 billion.

Yahoo rejected Microsoft's offer Monday, saying it "substantially undervalues" assets that include one of the Internet's biggest audiences and best-known brands.

Microsoft has held firm so far, calling its original bid "full and fair" while threatening to launch a hostile takeover attempt.

"What's unclear now is whether Yahoo is just trying to get a higher offer or if the company really doesn't want to sell to Microsoft," said Peter Falvey, a technology investment banker with Revolution Partners.

Although News Corp. Chairman Rupert Murdoch unequivocally said during a conference call last week that his New York-based company isn't interested in an outright acquisition of Yahoo, he didn't rule out the possibility of a deal involving MySpace.

When asked whether he might renew the previous discussions with Yahoo about a

If nothing else, the possibility of Yahoo joining forces with one of the world's largest media empires could prompt Microsoft to sweeten its bid.

Former mayor denies stealing neighbor's dog

ALICE, Texas (AP) — The former mayor of Alice who resigned because of a custody dispute over a Shih Tzu named Puddles insists she didn't steal her neighbor's pooch.

In an interview Thursday on NBC's "Today" show, ex-mayor Grace Saenz-Lopez said she had taken Puddles — whom she renamed Panchito — to protect a dog because she believed he was being neglected.

"I didn't steal the dog. I did not return him to save his life," said Saenz-Lopez, who was indicted Jan. 18 on two felony charges related to the alleged dognapping. As she spoke, the former mayor cuddled Puddles/Panchito in her lap.

The dispute began in July when Puddles' original owners, Rudy Gutierrez and Shelly Cavasos, asked Saenz-Lopez, their next door neighbor, to take care of him while they were on vacation. When they called to check on him, Saenz-

Lopez told them Puddles had died and was buried in her backyard.

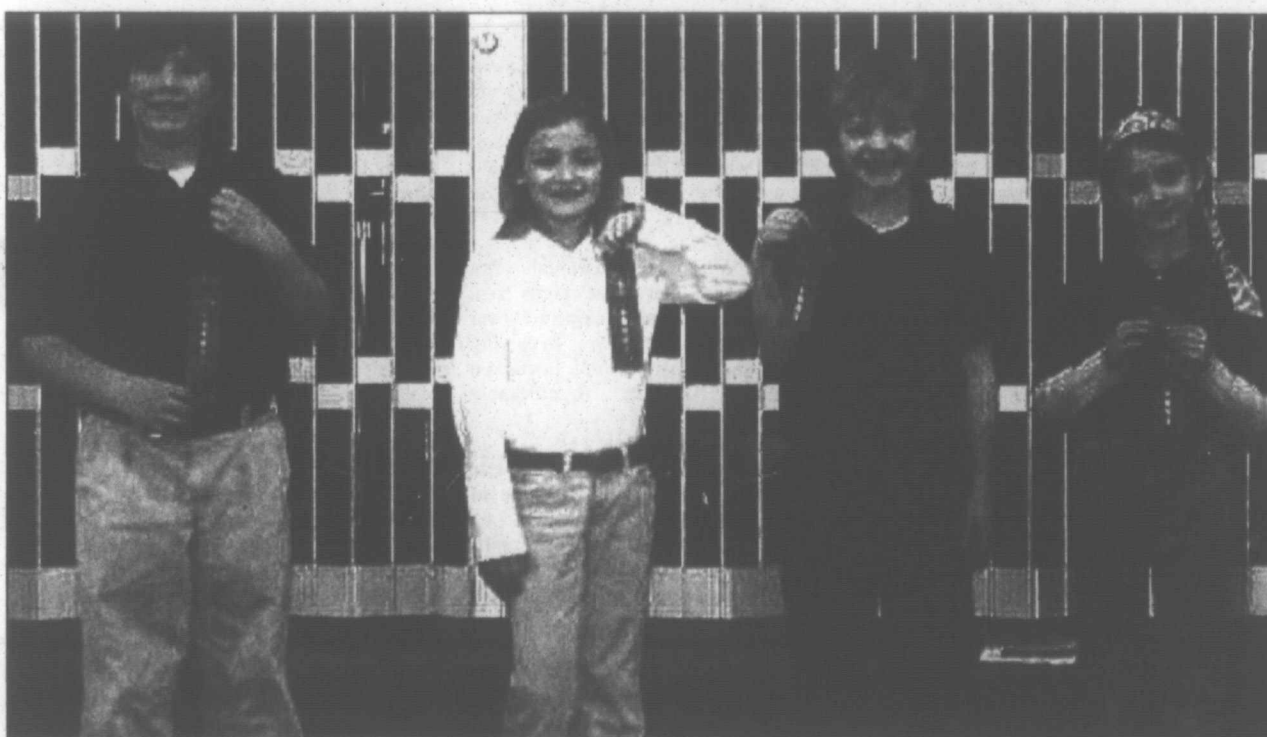
However, three months later, a relative of the neighbors saw the pet at a dog groomer. When Saenz-Lopez refused to return the dog, the family filed a criminal complaint and a civil lawsuit against her.

Saenz-Lopez later reported the dog missing, only to have Puddles/Panchito turn up at the home of the mayor's twin sister. Saenz-Lopez resigned as mayor on Feb. 1, after a recall petition was circulated in the South Texas town of fewer than 20,000 residents.

Cavasos, who also appeared on the "Today" show with Gutierrez and their attorney, said she left Puddles with Saenz-Lopez because "I trusted her. I knew he was sick. I never thought this would happen."

At the time, the dog was suffering from a severe flea infestation and a reaction to the chemicals used to treat him.

Speech awards



Courtesy Photo

Tyler DeVuyst, Elise Kennedy, Leo Mechsnark and Laura Leigh Ellis won awards recently at the Community Christian School's ACSI Speech Meet. A few of the students will move on to the district competition on Feb. 29. The students had to give recite either a poem, biblical verse or fable in front of three judges.



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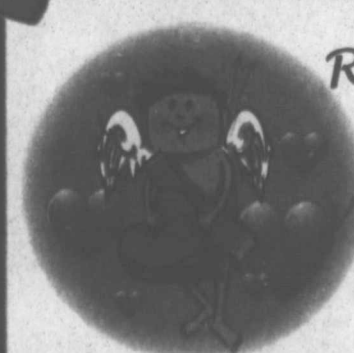
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