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## Car theft suspects still in custody

Local officers waiting to see if Kentucky authorities want to extradict

By MARILYN POWERS  
 Staff Writer

All three suspects who were arrested Tuesday, after leading law enforcement officers on a car and foot chase through miles of Pampa streets, are still in Gray County Jail as of press time today in lieu of bond, according to a jail official.

William Walling, 30, of Shepherdsville, Ky., remains in jail in lieu of bonds totaling \$7,000 for unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, burglary of a motor vehicle, and evading arrest. Walling is also wanted by Kentucky law enforcement on a warrant for violating probation on a charge of felony theft, according to the jail official.

Sean Withers, 30, of New Albany, Ind., remains in jail in lieu of bonds

totaling \$9,250 for unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, evading arrest with a vehicle, evading arrest, and burglary of a vehicle.

Withers is also the subject of an outstanding Kentucky warrant for violation of probation on a charge of felony theft.

Gary Davis, 40, of Oklahoma City, Okla., remains in jail today in lieu of bonds totaling \$3,000 for

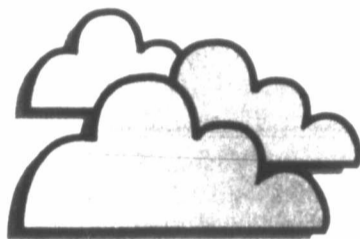
evading arrest and unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.

All Gray County charges except the evading arrest charge against Withers are felony charges, said Lt. Joe B. Hoard of Gray County Sheriff's Office.

"If they make bond, we'll hold them here for Kentucky, and if

See **SUSPECTS**, Page 3

### Today's weather



H 42 L 28

### Deaths

Eva Jane Green, 86, homemaker.  
 Mattie Ella Morgan, 105, nurse.

### Odds & Ends

GROVE, Okla. (AP) — Usually, parishioners offer money to their churches. This time, the church handed out money.

Pastor Steve Dyer of the Newsong Church gave \$14,000 to congregation members to invest for seven weeks, after which they are to bring the money and profits back to the church to be used in missionary work.

"The idea has always been in the back of my mind," said Dyer.

Loud gasps were heard throughout the 125-member, interdenominational church as the envelopes containing \$100 and \$50 bills were ripped opened after the Sunday sermon.

Dyer had placed crisp \$100 bills in red envelopes for adults and \$50 bills in green envelopes for school-age children.

Dyer said the church isn't keeping track of who has the money. He only gave one stipulation: It was not to be used to buy lottery tickets or to gamble.

Teacia Williams, 14, of Grove said she is going to use her \$50 to buy newspaper ads advertising her availability to baby-sit.

"I plan on doubling the money," she said.

MISHAWAKA, Ind. (AP) — A Valentine's Day gift sure created some sparks here — when it plunged 2,100 homes and businesses into the dark.

The heart-shaped metallic Mylar balloon caused an electrical outage when it drifted into an electrical substation, said Phil Miller, the general manager of Mishawaka Utilities.

"It said 'I Love You' on it," he said. "It looks like someone didn't hold onto their Valentine's gift tightly enough."

Miller said the balloon, trailing a wet string, drifted into the substation near the University Park mall in the city just east of South Bend.

The string caused a short circuit in a bank of capacitors, which are components that store electrical charges within the city's power transmission network.



Pampa News photo by DAVID BOWSER

Larry and Kay Stephens review the 2005 calendar featuring High Plains Cruisers vehicles at a meeting Tuesday night to plan this year's Burning the Bricks in June weekend events.

## Won't be long now!

Organizers make plans for 'Burnin' the Bricks' 2005

By DAVID BOWSER  
 Staff Writer

Trophies were the topic of conversation among car enthusiasts meeting Tuesday night at the Pampa Community Building, 200 N. Ballard.

Some 29 people showed up Tuesday night for a meeting of the High Plains Cruisers, an informal group of local vehicle enthusiasts, to discuss plans for next summer's "Burnin' the Bricks" weekend, set for Saturday and Sunday, June 11 and 12.

Vic Laramore said Clay Rice, executive director of the Pampa Chamber, and Chamber staff, as well as city officials and the Pampa Police Department had been very supportive of the group's Burnin' the Bricks events.

A Burn-Out competition will begin at 10 a.m., June 11, between Pampa High School and Harvester Stadium under the direction of the Pampa Police Department.

See **BRICKS**, Page 3

## MDA plans luau theme for lockup

By MARILYN POWERS  
 Staff Writer

Local business and civic leaders and other Pampans may want to start collecting donations in advance so that they can make "bail" if they are "arrested" in this Thursday's annual Muscular Dystrophy Association lock-up.

Fenton Motors of Pampa is the site of this year's "jail" and will be decorated to resemble a Hawaiian luau, this year's theme. Lockup

hours are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 17.

"The main reason we are doing it is because of our passion for the cause. We want to do our part," said Harry Fisher Sr., general manager of Fenton Motors of Pampa. "We're not trying to sell any cars. We're just wanting to do our part for the community."

Donations collected through "bail" money will help provide services to

See **MDA**, Page 3

## PISD board agenda lengthy for Tuesday

By DEE DEE LARAMORE  
 Editor

A lengthy agenda awaits the Pampa Independent School District's Board of Education when they meet at 6 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 17, at Carver Center, 321 W. Albert.

A community hearing on the 2005-2006 School Calendar will be conducted at the meeting. The proposed calendar lists a school start date on Aug. 15, 2005, which requires a waiver according to state law.

State law requires that public schools begin the school year the week of Aug. 21, explained PISD Superintendent Barry Haenisch.

To begin on a date other than the one set by the state, he said, requires a 60-day public notice and a public hearing.

See **AGENDA**, Page 3

## Amateur photographers, here's your chance to win!

Enter The Pampa News' "Pampa Portraits" contest for a chance to win \$50 in Pampa Bucks and have your photo published as a special section cover on March 31.

One section of the annual "Pride" Progress special edition will be dedicated to photographs of Pampa people in Pampa. The best photos submitted for the "P a m p a Portraits" contest will be included in one section of this special edition and the winning photograph will be published in color on the cover.

Eligible entries will be photographs of Pampa people in Pampa taken by amateur photographers. Photo subjects can be at work, at play, relaxing at home or celebrating special occasions. Photos of scenery or animals only will not be considered.

Newspaper staff members will determine the winner by judging on content, quality and originality. The decision of the judges will be final.

Photographs can be prints or digitals copied to a CD and submitted by mail or by bringing them to the newspaper office. Digital photos can be emailed in

the jpeg (.jpg) format. Photos submitted on a CD must be of the contest entry only.

A brief explanation of what is happening in the photograph, names of the persons, date and place must be included with each entry. If a person other than the entrant is in the photograph, a signed release to have his/her likeness published is also required.

The Pampa News will not be responsible for any lost or damaged photos. Entrants are asked not to submit photos that are irreplaceable.

Each entry must be accompanied by the entrant's name, address, e-mail address, and telephone number. Entries that do not have all the required information will not be considered.

Entry deadline is 5 p.m., Wednesday, March 16. The winner will be notified by Friday, March 25.

To submit an entry, mail to "Pampa Portraits" Contest, The Pampa News, P.O. Box 2198, Pampa, TX 79066-2198; or bring to 403 W. Atchison. To submit by e-mail, send the entry to editor@thepampanews.com.







*'These ladies are no ladies'*

Diana Bruner holds tight to Dawn Clendening's hammer arm as she tries to put a dent in Berinda Turcotte's head. ACT I presents "Ladies at the Alamo," a comedy in two acts, Feb. 25, 26 and March 3-4 at the theater behind Pampa Mall. "These 'ladies' are no ladies," says director, Kayla Pursley. "They get what they want by whatever means necessary." Also in the cast are Sheila Lindsay and Gayla Rigdon. Curtain goes up at 7:30 p.m. For more information call 665-3820.

## Suspects

Continued from Page 1

Kentucky refuses to extradite them, we'll cut them loose," Hoard said of Walling and Withers.

Davis, Walling and Withers led officers from five law enforcement agencies on a chase that began at about 2:30 p.m. Monday at Coronado Shopping Center, 1200 N. Hobart. The chase resulted from a call alleging burglary of a vehicle.

Officers from Pampa Police

Department, Gray County Sheriff's Office, Roberts County Sheriff's Office, Texas Department of Public Safety and the Texas Rangers were involved in the chase by the time all three suspects were taken into custody.

Walling was arrested near the 2000 block of North Hobart after the men parked their vehicle in that vicinity and attempted to escape on foot. Davis was apprehended at the intersection of Hobart, 21st Avenue and Perryton Parkway.

Withers, the driver of the trio's car, was the last to be arrested. He went into

a business in the 2100 block of North Hobart and was seen leaving the business and going west across Perryton Parkway, then north down an alley.

After moving through a yard, then west across Banks Street and another yard on the west side of Banks, officers lost visual contact with Withers, but set up a perimeter and found him in a garage that opened onto an alley in the area.

The red car the three had been traveling in was reported stolen on Feb. 9 from Tennessee, according to Lt. Fred Courtney of Pampa Police Department.

## Bricks

Continued from Page 1

The local VFW post will sponsor a sock hop and street dance in the 100 block of Cuyler beginning at 9 p.m., June 11.

Registration for the cruise and car show will be June 11 at the Pampa VFW hall, 106 Cuyler.

The cruisers will follow the "drag" Saturday night down Francis to Purviance to Foster east to Cuyler. Those streets will be closed off for the parade of cars from 6 p.m. until "dark," Laramore said. The dance will follow the cruise.

"Our old drag included Hobart," Laramore said.

But since Hobart is Texas Highway 70, cruise organizers decided not to try to get the state to close off that street.

The car show, swap meet and craft show will begin at 10 a.m., June 12, at Recreation Park.

There will be 20 classes in the car show.

The Mud Bog, which proved so popular last year, drawing approximately 5,000 spectators, will also begin at 10 a.m. at Recreation Park.

There will be nine classes

for the Mud Bog.

Several non-profits will be on hand selling food.

Bruner said that the Boy Scouts made enough last year to buy a new trailer for their concession stand this year.

Caps and tee shirts will be on sale throughout the weekend.

The money raised from the car show will go for the club's auto vocational tech scholarships.

There is no entry fee for spectators, Bruner said.

"Spectators are free for all events," Laramore said.

Next meeting for Burnin' of the Bricks in June weekend plans is set for Tuesday, March 15, at 6:30 p.m. at the Pampa Community Building.

Anyone interested in helping with the event is welcome to attend.

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## Free fund-raising workshop offered for nonprofit groups

AMARILLO — The Suddes Group will present the ForImpact Workshop in the Amarillo area on Tuesday, March 8, at 8:30 a.m. Sponsored by the American Red Cross, the three-hour workshop is free of charge and open to nonprofit staff, leadership and volunteers. It will be held at the Virgil Henson Activities Center, Room 211, on the West Texas A&M University campus in Canyon.

The workshop teaches the Suddes Group's fund-raising approach, which is based on "The Nine Guiding Principles of ForImpact Organizations." Authored by Suddes Group founder Tom Suddes, who has worked with nonprofits for over 30 years, the "Nine Guiding Principles" is a learning framework that challenges organizations to make radical changes in the way they think, operate and fund their vision.

Fund-raising frameworks to be introduced at the workshop include message

building, the relationship-based ForImpact development office, the leadership society, and the major gift process.

Attendance as a team is encouraged, including representation from the development staff, senior staff and board members. The workshop is one of many being offered across the country through The Suddes Group's ForImpact open source initiative, and through the sponsorship of local ForImpact leaders.

The ForImpact open source initiative shares The Suddes Group's fundraising and development processes at its website, [www.forimpact.org](http://www.forimpact.org). ForImpact invites dialogue, innovation and idea-sharing from anyone involved in the nonprofit arena.

To register for the ForImpact Workshop, or for more information, contact Tom Pierce at 800-786-1113, or go to [www.forimpact.org/workshops](http://www.forimpact.org/workshops).

## Citizens on Patrol training set Feb. 17

A training class for Pampa Police Department's Citizens On Patrol program will be at 7 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 17, at the police department in City Hall.

Citizens On Patrol is a program that "takes Neighborhood Watch one step further," said Pampa Police Officer Donny Brown, who will be the instructor for Thursday's class.

Participants act as "extra eyes and ears" for law enforcement officers by patrolling their neighborhoods and reporting any suspicious or illegal activity they witness, Brown said.

Thursday's class will be approximately three hours long.

A second three-hour session will be scheduled during Thursday's session for further instruction to complete the course, Brown said.

For more information, call Brown at 669-5700.

## Agenda

Continued from Page 1

Then the school district can request a waiver from the state, he said.

Action items before the board Thursday include the following:

- Implementing Innovative Courses at Pampa Learning Center.
- Authorization for bond refunding. Vince Viaille of First Southwest company is scheduled to discuss the advantages of refunding bonds sold for the elementary additions and remodeling. School officials defined refunding bonds as being

similar to refinancing a mortgage to lower a house payment.

- Approval of Bank One Travel Card.

- Bids for property and casualty insurance coverage.

- Second reading of revised policies on relations with parent organizations, leaves and absences, and TASB Policy Update 74.

- New term contracts for classroom teachers and dual contracts

- Nomination of a Pampa ISD trustee to Texas Association of School Boards Board of Directors.

- Personnel: Renewal of administrators' contracts and offer of employment for

teachers for 2005-2006.

Discussion items listed on the agenda include first reads of revised policies for nonschool use of school facilities and distribution of nonschool literature.

Reports scheduled for the meeting include the Drug and Alcohol Survey results, survey results on workplace incentives inventory from the Salary and Benefits Committee, Campus Arrest Report for the first semester from Pampa Chief of Police, and credit hours earned by board of trustee members.

A Spotlight on Excellence is planned at the beginning of the meeting and a public comments period is scheduled for 7 p.m.

behind bars," according to the release. They will also be allowed to make phone calls to raise their "bail" money.

The traditional bread and water provided to prisoners will be supplemented by brisket, provided and cooked by the dealership, said Teresa Isham, program coordinator for MDA in the Pampa area.

## MDA

Continued from Page 1

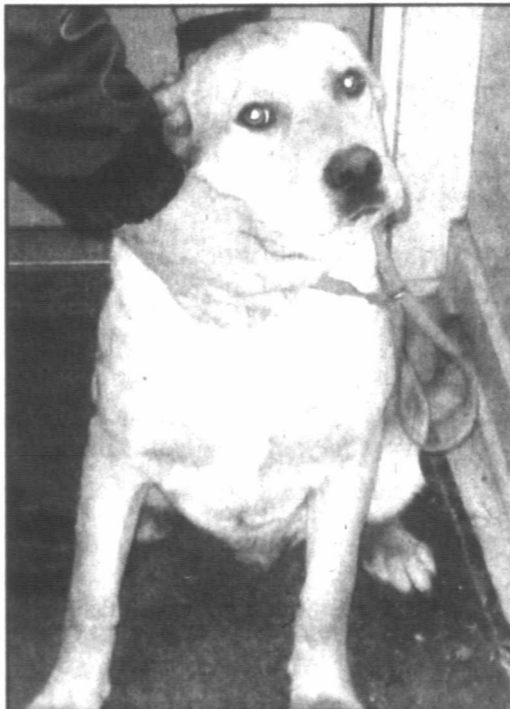
local MDA patients, according to an MDA news release. Services provided include free comprehensive medical care, monthly support groups, a summer camp, wheelchair purchase and repair, and ongoing

medical research to find a cure for the 43 diseases that are associated with muscular dystrophy.

Employees of Fenton Motors will act as "peace officers" and will use cars provided by the dealership to make their "arrests."

"The 'jailbirds' will be handcuffed, sentenced to one hour of lockup fun, and have their mug shots taken

## Pet of the Week



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# Viewpoints

## Turning 18 holds privilege and responsibility

For as long as I can remember the passing of Valentine's Day has held a special meaning for me. It has always signified that my birthday was just 10 short days away. This year that has extra importance and significance to me because I will be turning 18 years old. This is, from everything I have heard and often read, one of the most important birthday milestones.

and take on the requirements of being an adult. It means that you amass a larger amount of responsibility and respect. It means that you are considered independent. However, my personal view is taking on something very different. To me, it seems to mean hardly anything different than what my 17th birthday meant. Turning 18 is nothing more than just signifying that another year has passed by. The only real freedoms given to someone who turns 18 are the right to smoke and

buy lottery tickets, two things which I will rarely if ever be doing. Although the two practically useless privileges of age are something I will never partake in, there is one thing about turning 18 that thrills me. I will finally have the right to vote. For years I have looked forward to this ability. I remember watching the elec-

tion night results pour in and wishing I had been able to cast my ballot, make my opinion heard, throughout elementary, middle and high school. Along with this great privilege and freedom comes something which deeply terrifies me - the possibility of being drafted. As I filled out financial aid applications for the colleges I have applied

to, I had to register for the Selective Service. Each male must register when they turn 18. If a draft were to ever be started, a pool of men would be drawn from the Selective Service. While President Bush has said he will not reinstate the draft, with war recently threatening with Iran from the warning of Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, the possibility is looming. Turning 18 could very well mean that I could be sent off to die in a war I do not particular believe is worth fighting.

It is this that scares me about turning 18. It is this that makes me wonder about how much the birthday's benefits actually outweigh its negatives. But each time I start to ask myself this question, I just sit back and remember that this year will be one of change, one of happiness and one of good experiences, and that makes the birthday a joyous one.



**Ben Briscoe**  
News Intern

\*\*\*  
*Ben Briscoe is a senior at Pampa High School working as a journalism intern at The News.*

## Texas Thoughts

Houston Chronicle

The unmasking of an alleged journalist who used a pseudonym to gain access to White House briefings and news conferences raises more questions about the Bush administration's tactics for securing favorable news. James Guckert, who used the Talon News byline "Jeff Gannon," managed to get access to the White House on a daily basis for two years.

Guckert questioned President Bush at a January news conference last month, tossing a softball query that ridiculed Democrats for "being divorced from reality." The organization Guckert worked for turned out to be an arm of a partisan group, GOPUSA, a conservative Web site based in Houston and dedicated to "spreading the conservative message throughout America." It turns out Talon News was created only a few days before Guckert first applied for a White House daily pass.

Guckert was denied similar credentials to cover Capitol Hill because of questions about his legitimacy as a reporter. His identity was exposed by bloggers, and he turned out to be associated with a number of sexually oriented Web sites. Guckert resigned, claiming harassment by liberals.

Guckert's only credential as a journalist appears to be attendance at a two-day seminar by the conservative Leadership Oriented Broadcast Journalism School. He apparently gained access to the White House using little more than a fake name, a Social Security number, and date of birth. In an age of heightened security, it's hard to believe this lapse could occur without someone inside the White House vouching for Guckert. The alternative would be little meaningful security at the executive mansion.

*At least there's no indication the White House was involved in directly paying Guckert ...*

White House press secretary Scott McClellan said President Bush did not know who Guckert was. A journalist familiar with the process says it's likely Bush was tipped by his press staff that "the bald guy would lob him an easy one." If so, setting up ringers to toss fawning questions to the president is another indication, if any were needed, that the administration prefers the media to be propagandists rather than independent inquisitors.

At least there's no indication the White House was involved in directly paying Guckert for his services, as the administration did in three other recent incidents. Last month, conservative commentator Armstrong Williams apologized for not disclosing that his company had received \$240,000 from a public relations agency hired by the Department of Education to promote Bush's No Child Left Behind Act.

Syndicated columnist Maggie Gallagher also apologized to her readers for not disclosing a \$21,500 contract with the Department of Health and Human Services to help create materials used to promote Bush's \$300 million initiative encouraging marriage to strengthen families.

HHS later disclosed that a third conservative columnist, Mike McManus, had received \$10,000 to promote Bush's marriage initiative, according to an Associated Press report. His weekly column appears in about 50 newspapers.

The practice of buying ostensibly independent reporters and writers to shill for politicians deceives the public and corrupts the free media. Allowing fake reporters to compete with credentialed journalists for sparse press conference time with the leader of the free world demeans the whole process.



"WHO SAYS THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AREN'T SAVING ENOUGH?"

## Brutality, violence part of war

The recent flap about remarks by a Marine Corps general reminds me of a line from the great Michael Mann film "Last of the Mohicans."

There is a scene during which the wilderness fighter Hawkeye tells the daughter of an English colonel: "My father warned me about people like you. He said do not try to understand them, and do not expect them to understand you."

Many Americans stick fast to the myth of the clean-cut Christian knight who goes forth to battle evil but is a reluctant killer. Lt. Gen. James Mattis, speaking at a public forum, told the truth from the warrior's point of view: "It's a hell of a lot of fun to shoot them. ... Actually, it's a lot of fun to fight. It's a hell of a hoot. ... I like brawling."

The general is lucky to be a Marine. Had he been a naval officer, the more politically correct Navy might well have ended his career, as it has ended the careers of a number of good fighting officers. The Marine Corps commandant did the right thing. He spoke to the general in private and let the mat-

ter drop. No doubt he warned him to be more careful about where he speaks the truth.

The warrior's job is to kill people and destroy property. That's what he trains to do, exists to do and, when let loose by the politicians, that's what he does. That requires a certain amount of emotional callousness, or else the stress will cause a mental breakdown.

Furthermore, war is the ultimate sport. It is a contest in which the stakes are life or death.

It is the ultimate high for adrenaline junkies. Even Robert E. Lee, who really was a Christian knight, remarked, "It is well that war is so terrible else we would grow too fond of it." I know several men, combat veterans, who do love war. They miss it. They love to reminisce about it. Nothing that peace has to offer can match war's excitement. A man is never more alive than when he is face-to-face with death.

But many Americans

today are addicted to lies and myths. You can see that from all the euphemisms that shroud the war in Iraq. Everybody in uniform is a hero. They are the finest people in the world. They are fighting for freedom. Anytime the ugly truth about war slips through the media shield, such as the torture of prisoners or the shooting of unarmed men, it's immediately declared an aberration.

But it's not an aberration.

Brutality and violence are the norms of war. The American news media, for the most part, try to shield the public from the truth. The Bush administration hates Al-Jazeera, the Arab television station, not because it supports terrorism - which it doesn't - but because it shows the true face of war. It shows the burned and mangled bodies of civilian women and children that the Bush administration prefers that Americans not see. After all, they are only "col-

lateral damage."

Americans have always suffered from a split personality when it comes to war and the military. Once we are in war, no nation is more savage or brutal than we are. But at the same time, we always want to think of our soldiers as the ultimate do-gooders. This was typified to me when I was in basic training. We would go from bayonet practice, where we were instructed to shout "kill" as we thrust the blade into imaginary flesh, to a mandatory lecture by the chaplain, who would urge us to not curse or drink.

We need fighting warriors like Gen. Mattis, but they should not expect civilians, especially in the liberal media, to understand them. Like a good pit bull, they should be kept away from the press.

God knows there are enough political generals who aren't worth spit on the battlefield to hand out all the propaganda and heifer dust the administration wants civilians to hear.

\*\*\*  
*Charley Reese is a retired journalist and syndicated columnist.*

**Charley Reese**  
Columnist



**THE PAMPA NEWS**  
403 W. Atchison • Pampa, TX 79065  
806-669-2525 • 800-687-3348  
Fax: 806-669-2520  
email: editor@thepampanews.com  
Publisher: Sean Smith  
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## Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Feb. 16, the 47th day of 2005. There are 318 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:**  
On Feb. 16, 1945, American troops landed on the island of Corregidor in the Philippines during World War II.

**On this date:**

In 1862, during the Civil War, some 14,000 Confederate soldiers surrendered at Fort Donelson, Tenn. (Union Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's victory earned him the nickname "Unconditional Surrender Grant.")

In 1868, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks was organized in New York City.

In 1918, Lithuania proclaimed its

independence.

In 1923, the burial chamber of King Tutankhamen's recently unearthed tomb was unsealed in Egypt.

In 1959, Fidel Castro became premier of Cuba after the overthrow of Fulgencio Batista.

In 1968, the nation's first 911 emergency telephone system was inaugurated, in Haleyville, Ala.

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CROSS

By THOMA

ACROSS

1 Calm

6 Young fellows

10 Blender button

11 Temple text

12 Self-contained

13 Singer Lena

14 Monopoly pay

15 Threat words

16 Wedding

17 Consuming

18 Longing

19 Decline

22 Lowly worker

23 Charged particles

26 Razed

29 Gen.'s underlying

32 Putin's nation: Abbr.

33 Runner Sebastian

34 Morphine e.g.

36 Unclad

37 Paris subway

38 Like some jackets

39 Use the mirror

40 Classic song

41 Mystery writer Woods

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THE PAMPA NEWS COMICS

# Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I have a friend I'll call "Tara." A few months ago, Tara gave me a puppy. She said it was for no reason other than "because we're such good friends," and she knew I had been thinking about getting one.

I told Tara that I wanted to get her a present, but she refused, saying she would not accept any of my charity. I let it go.

My birthday and Tara's are on the same day. That's how we became friends. I bought Tara a present. She did not give me one, although we usually exchange gifts. Instead, she demanded that I give her a laptop computer and several DVDs or give her back the dog!

Abby, I was astounded. I was even more astounded when Tara claimed she "knew" I had been into drugs and was a department store thief. She said if I didn't give her what she asked, she would tell my mother and the police.

I have never been into drugs. I don't steal. Should I give her what she wants? I don't want to go to jail. -- ASTOUNDED IN LOS ANGELES

DEAR ASTOUNDED: Do not return the puppy, and do not give in to her demands. However, DO cross Tara off your list of friends. Once a gift is given, it belongs to the recipient. There are names for what this manipulative "friend" is attempting to do; the terms extortion and blackmail would apply. It's important you tell your mother what's going on immediately. Then inform Tara that the friendship is over and there are severe penalties for filing a false police report.

DEAR ABBY: My brother committed suicide four years ago. He had two children who are now in the fourth and sixth grades. Their mother has never told them the circumstances of their father's death.

When is it appropriate to tell children that a parent's death was due to suicide? Everyone who knew my brother knows how he

died. I'm afraid someone will slip up and say something in front of them. I think it would be better if they heard it from their mother sooner rather than from a stranger years from now. What do you think? -- CONCERNED AUNT

DEAR CONCERNED: What makes you think the children have no idea of the circumstances surrounding their father's death? Little pitchers have big ears, and there was bound to be conversation about it when it happened. Even if an effort was made to protect the little ones, children are not stupid, nor do they operate in a vacuum. If conversation comes to a screeching halt when they enter a room, they know something is wrong.

They may not have talked to their mother about it because they're afraid they'll make her sad if they do. By all means, the mother should bring up the subject with them -- if only to ask them what they know about their father's death.

DEAR ABBY: I feel guilty about something and don't know if it is justified. A co-worker was recently fired. We had worked together on a daily basis, but were not especially close. I knew about the firing two weeks before it happened.

Another co-worker told me I should have warned him to help "soften the blow." I was afraid to say anything because I am in a senior management position. What's your opinion? -- SECOND THOUGHTS IN KENTUCKY

DEAR SECOND THOUGHTS: Had you leaked the news you would have betrayed a confidence, and it would have created tension in the office. If word of the impending termination had reached the employee, it could have resulted in retaliation against your employers. You did the right thing by remaining silent.

## For Better Or Worse



## Zits



## Garfield



## Beetle Bailey



## Marvin



## Crossword Puzzle

### CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Calm

6 Young fellows

10 Blender button

11 Temple text

12 Self-contained

13 Singer Lena

14 Mono-poly pay

15 Threat

16 Wedding words

17 Consume

18 Longing

19 Decline

22 Lowly worker

23 Charged particles

26 Razed

29 Gen.'s underling

32 Putin's nation: Abbr.

33 Runner Sebastian

34 Morphine, e.g.

36 Unclad

37 Paris subway

38 Like some jackets

39 Use the mirror

40 Classic song

41 Mystery writer

42 Fair-haired

DOWN

1 Verve

2 Prepared to play

3 Smelter's need

4 Spring period

5 Rebel general

6 Canadian dollar

7 Display symbol

8 Arts-page topic

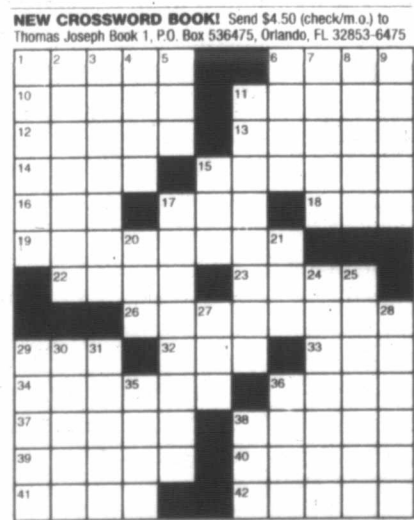
9 "The West Wing" star

11 Gemini

15 Noted Chinese leader



- 17 Role for Art
- 20 Negating word
- 21 Silent OK activity
- 24 "I'm unable to comply" size
- 25 Gave the oath of office to
- 27 Regret
- 28 Called for free tickets
- 30 Met activity
- 31 Bottle size
- 35 Vicinity
- 36 Platypus feature
- 38 High hit



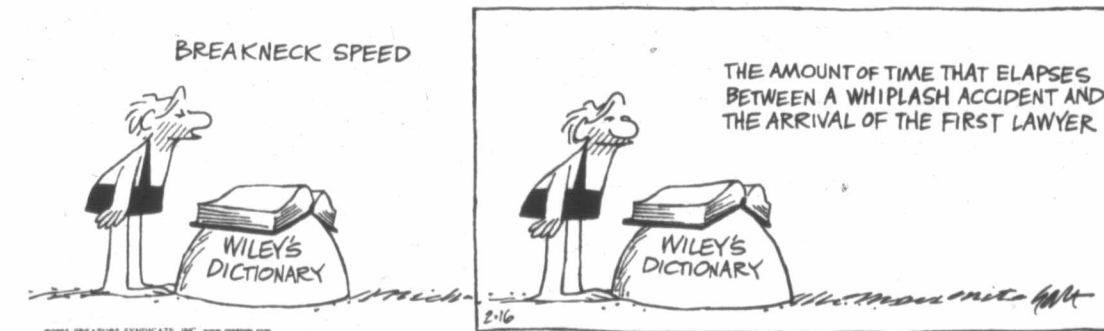
## Marmaduke



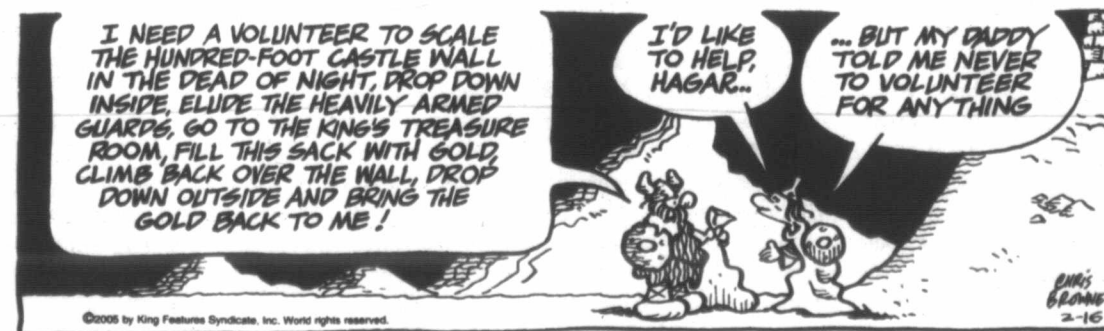
## The Family Circus



## B.C.



## Hagar The Horrible



## Peanuts



## Blondie



## Flo & Friends



FEB 16 2005





# Kyoto pact to stem 'greenhouse gases' takes effect

KYOTO, Japan (AP) — The Kyoto global warming pact went into force Wednesday, seven years after it was negotiated, imposing limits on emissions of carbon dioxide and other gases scientists blame for increasing world temperatures, melting glaciers and rising oceans.

The landmark agreement, negotiated in Japan's ancient capital of Kyoto in 1997 and ratified by 140 nations, targets carbon dioxide and five other gases that can trap heat in the atmosphere, and are believed to be behind rising global temperatures that many scientists say are disrupting weather patterns.

The United States, the world's largest emitter of such gases, has refused to ratify the agreement, saying it would harm the economy and is flawed by the lack of restrictions on emissions by emerging economies China and India.

"We have been calling on the United States to join. But the country that is the world's biggest emitter has not joined yet, and that is regrettable," Japan's top government

spokesman, Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroyuki Hosoda, told reporters.

Environmental officials, gathered in the convention hall where the accord was adopted, hailed the protocol as a historic first step in the battle against global warming and urged the world to further strengthen safeguards against greenhouse gases.

"Today is a day of celebration and also a day to renew our resolve ... to combat global warming," said Hiroschi Ohki, former Japanese environment minister and president of the conference that negotiated the protocol.

Australia, the only other developed nation besides the United States not to join, defended that decision, with Environment Minister Ian Campbell saying the country was nonetheless on track to cut emissions by 30 percent.

"Until such time as the major polluters of the world, including the United States and China, are made part of the Kyoto regime, it is next to useless and indeed harmful for a

country such as Australia to sign up," Australian Prime Minister John Howard said in Canberra.

The Kyoto agreement was delayed by the requirement that countries accounting for 55 percent of the world's emissions must ratify it. That goal was reached last year with Russia's approval.

In Japan, the enactment was being met with a mixture of pride and worry that the world's second-largest economy is unprepared to meet its emissions reduction targets. Japan planned to celebrate the enactment Wednesday at the convention hall where the accord was negotiated in December 1997.

Joke Waller-Hunter, the Dutch chief of the treaty secretariat, said that while the Kyoto agreement already was having an impact on greenhouse gas levels, it was only a first step that must be followed up with stronger agreements once it expires in 2012.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said climate change was one of the biggest challenges facing mankind and there was "no time to lose" in formulating strategies that would follow the term of the Kyoto pact.

"If this challenge is not addressed, sustainable development will be out of reach," he said in a video message broadcast from U.N. headquarters in New York.

In London, about 35 Greenpeace protesters armed with foghorns, attack alarms and whistles stormed the International Petroleum Exchange in a bid to paralyze oil trading.

"We believe we are stopping trading in oil on the global market," Greenpeace spokesman Ben Stewart said. "We're asking the world to take a deep breath on this and consider where our oil addiction is taking us."

*'Today is a day of celebration and also a day to renew our resolve ... to combat global warming.'*

— Hiroschi Ohki  
Japanese official

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