



Tomorrow's Weather

HIGH
28
LOW
16

See expanded weather on Page 2

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SEE PAGE 6

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New firm receives grant OK on first city reading

By DAVID BOWSER
Staff Writer

A company that makes biodegradable packaging material, pet treats and toys for pets may get an economic development grant from the Pampa Economic Development Corporation for creating jobs here.

The Pampa City Commission, during a meeting Tuesday afternoon, approved the first reading of an agreement between the economic development corporation and MXT, LLC, for up to \$141,000 for the creation of 47 jobs at their factory in Pampa.

The jobs include sales director positions for plastic, pet food and insulation divisions, secretaries, mill foremen, mill operators, maintenance and fabrication workers, a truck driver, a chemist, lab techs and transfer employees. Almost half of the projected jobs, numbering 20, will be packing workers.

The workforce at the Nevada-based company is expected to grow to 47 in Pampa within two to three years.

The agreement must be approved by the commission in a second and final reading of the agreement.

The commission also amended the 2006-2007 budget to reflect an increase in funding for Pampa tourism from \$20,000 to \$29,100.

The city commission also adopted a resolution and a joint election agreement between the City of Pampa and the Pampa Independent School District. Under the agreement, elections for both will share a ballot and polls on their May 12, election.

Pampa City Secretary Phyllis Jeffers said the expenses of the elections would be split half and half between the two entities. In addition,

the city will charge the school district a 10 percent administration fee for services provided by the city.

"We will split the costs," Jeffers said.

In reviewing the city's December bills, Commissioner Neil Fulton questioned the city's payment fees to the Pampa Chamber of Commerce for city officials' meals at chamber functions.

"I do not feel this is appropriate," Fulton said.

The fees totaled \$1,618 for the

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Ice walking can have serious consequences

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

Pedestrian falls during recent bouts of ice and snow have reminded some injured area residents that walking on the slick stuff can be just as dangerous as driving on it.

"We've seen an increase in the number of weather-related injuries," said Kathy Crawford, administrator of Family Medicine Center. "They're mostly sprains, broken bones, contusions and abrasions."

"We've seen patients that have fallen on the ice, everything from sprains to broken bones," said Linda Reed, office manager for Dr. David Hampton, a Pampa orthopedic surgeon. "Some have needed surgery for fractures like broken hips. We always see broken hips when there's ice."

"We usually see an increase in patients who are having neck pain, knee pain or low back pain from slips on the ice," said Raelynne Glaesman, physical therapist assistant of Pampa Orthopedics and Rehabilitation. "And any broken bones may need rehabilitation."

District Clerk Gaye

Honderich can vouch for the possibility of falling on ice and being injured. She broke her right wrist Dec. 19 during Pampa's first significant icy spell of the winter.

"It didn't seem like it was that icy, but my feet just went out from under me," Honderich said. "I put out my right hand to catch myself, and broke my wrist."

A physical examination revealed the broken bone, and a cast was applied to Honderich's right arm from above the elbow to the fingers. Three weeks later, a less restrictive cast replaced the first and stretches from just below her elbow to across the middle of the hand.

"This one lets me move my hand," Honderich said of the bright pink cast, which her granddaughters decorated with drawings and their autographs. Her first cast had been blue.

Honderich's cast will come off today if the results of a doctor's appointment do not reveal any further need for it.

See ICE, Page 3



Pampa News photo by MARILYN POWERS
District Clerk Gaye Honderich, who is right-handed, has had to learn how to write with her left hand while her broken right wrist heals in a cast which has been decorated by her granddaughters. Honderich fell on an icy patch Dec. 19.

Contracts, offices on county's agenda

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

Contracts and district and county clerk's offices will be the focus of several items on the agenda of Thursday's Gray County commissioners' meeting, which begins at 9 a.m. in the second-floor courtroom of the courthouse, 205 N. Russell.

Requests by the county clerk which will be presented Thursday are to image old records through the clerk's archive fund and to destroy designated records.

A request to have a permanent part-time employee added to the district clerk's office will be considered.

Continuing education of both the county and district clerks will be recognized.

A fee for leasing electronic voting machines owned by the county will be

discussed. The machines are the responsibility of the county clerk. Currently, no other governing bodies in the county which hold public elections own any of the machines, which are required by law to be used.

A racial profile report from Precincts 1 and 3 Constable James Lewis will be reviewed.

The appointment of Gary Babcock, Christie Redding, Elaine Morris, Grazia Moser, Gary Willoughby, and Teresa Davis to the county's sick leave pool committee will be decided.

Commissioners will also consider rescinding minute order 06-333 and replacing it with a new minute order regarding the county's personnel policy manual.

Minute Order 06-333 states that upon termination of an insured employee, their coverage and that of their

dependents will end on the last day of the month following their last insurance deduction. The order refers to health insurance coverage.

Commissioners will consider reverting to previous wording of the policy which stated that such coverage would end on the last day of the month in which the termination occurred.

The policy came to commissioners' attention at their Jan. 15 meeting when Treasurer Scott Hahn pointed out the current wording.

"Our intent was to end coverage on the last day of employment," said County Judge Richard Peet at the Jan. 15 meeting.

"We'd intended to cover that entire month," said Precinct 4 Commissioner James Hefley.

See COUNTY, Page 3

Landfill costs going up

By DAVID BOWSER
Staff Writer

Unexpected landfill requirements mandated by the state are going to cost the city of Pampa more money.

Richard Morris, director of public works for the city of Pampa, told the Pampa City Commission Tuesday that new landfill requirements imposed by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality are going to add to the costs of the city's landfill, but the city is proposing several steps that could save some money, including shifting demolition waste to an older part of the landfill.

"We're currently in Cell 3," Morris said. "The next cell that's planned to be developed in this phase is Cell 4."

That's on the western end of the landfill site.

Morris said the city is considering combining Cells 9 and 10 in an older section of the landfill on the east end of the city property and making a single cell for construction and demolition waste.

"The reason for that," Morris said, "is that when we started our real active program on house demolition I told you that we would probably shorten the life on Cell 3 by possibly a year from the demolition waste we put in there over a four year period."

Cell 3 has a very expensive liner, Morris said. Cells 9 and 10 from an earlier phase are unlined pits, but they can take construction debris.

"Something that would not have the possibility of leaching into the ground water," Morris said.

He said the city is proposing to put demolition material into the older cells that

See LANDFILL, Page 3

Big increase in citizenship, other immigration fees planned

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Bush administration is proposing to nearly double the cost of becoming a U.S. citizen and drastically raise the cost of becoming a legal permanent resident.

Citizenship and Immigration Services, a division of the Department of Homeland Security, announced today it wants to

raise the application fee for citizenship from \$330 to \$595 and the fee for becoming a legal permanent resident from \$325 to \$905. But the agency plans to eliminate other costs those applicants often pay while they are waiting for their permanent residency to be final.

"This is a comprehensive cost of not only keeping this

organization afloat but moving forward," said Emilio Gonzalez, CIS director.

The agency said the new fees would reduce average application processing times by the end of September 2009. The agency said it would raise \$2 billion over two years from the fee increases. The money is to be spent on improving immi-

gration offices, technology, background checks of immigrants and speeding up completing applications.

Applicants now pay a \$70 fingerprinting fee, and the agency wants to increase that to \$80. Fees also are paid for work permits, replacing lost green cards and petitions to adopt orphans from other countries.

The proposed increases would not be final until after a public comment period. They will likely go into effect in mid June, Gonzalez said.

Congressional Democrats last week warned in a letter to Gonzalez that they

planned to review the agency's analyses behind any proposed immigration fee increases.

The letter was signed by Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., immigration subcommittee chairman Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., House Judiciary Committee Chairman John Conyers, D-Mich., and immigration subcommittee chairwoman Rep. Zoe Lofgren, D-Calif.

Immigration advocates have been bracing for the expected jump in fees. William Ramos, Washington director for the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed

Officials, said the increases are "just going to be devastating to our communities."

"It will basically create another obstacle for those who want to realize their dream of becoming American citizens," Ramos said.

Citizenship and Immigration Services covers its costs with application fees. The agency is required to do a fee analysis every two years to determine whether money raised from fees is covering costs. The agency last raised its fees in 2004, citing the cost of more intense background checks in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

City

Continued from Page 1

year.

"For me," said Mayor Lonny Robbins, "it's how you look at it."

"Would any of these people not go if we didn't pay?" Fulton asked.

He said he thought it was an unnecessary expense.

City Manager John Horst said he would put it on the agenda as the commission starts their planning sessions in February.

The commission also heard reports from Ken Hall, the city's emergency

planning coordinator, about pandemic influenza concerns and the new communications tower being erected on the west side of Pampa.

Richard Morris, Pampa's director of public works, spoke to the commission concerning unfunded mandates imposed by the State of Texas on the city's landfill.

Deputy Fire Chief Randy Dunham spoke to the commission concerning a new grass firefighting rig.

Dunham said that instead of buying a larger booster truck, the fire department is recommending a less expensive grass firefighting truck.

Horst said that the fire department needs something small that can get down alleys and still fight grass fires.

Fulton said that insurance rates could be lowered with the new equipment. He said that from talking with insurance companies a rating for the city could be lowered with additional equipment.

Fulton said the insurance companies with whom he had talked indicated such a lowering of the rating could mean a \$70 savings on a \$100,000 home policy.

Dunham said a grass rig would cost about \$100,000 as opposed to a booster truck that would cost about \$200,000.

Landfill

Continued from Page 1

have no liners. Morris said that if the city opens the older cells to demolition waste, it will cost half of what it would to put the debris in Cell 3, which is lined.

Concerning the new landfill permit, Morris said that for budgeting purposes, the city has money for it this fiscal year totaling \$97,500. But those costs rise in 2007-2008 to \$745,000 and to \$640,000 in 2008-2009.

"We've got a projected expenditure there of a little over \$1.5 million," Morris said.

He said the new sites have been running \$1.2 million, but last year the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality said the city had to do a new sod operating plant.

The money spent on the new permitted landfill in

2005-2006 and in 2006-2007 budgets was to satisfy the new TCEQ requirements.

"There's a lot of paperwork, a lot of surveying and aerial photography that they're requesting," Morris said. "Also we're looking at having to add some new ground water monitoring for that."

He said the city is considering spending \$102,000 on one of the older parts of the landfill in an effort to get that site ready to close.

"We've never closed that site out," Morris said. "The reason we haven't closed it out is because there's quite an expenditure in doing so. We've tried putting that off as long as we can, but once we start doing the demolition site, we're looking at having to close it out."

He said closing that site and developing the demolition site will cost about \$700,000.

"There will be a savings in the long run, although

there's a high initial cost," Morris said. "It depends upon how active we are on demolition. If we're extremely active, then we'll get eight to 10 years probably. That's an estimate on my part. If we go pretty well the way we're going now, it should be longer than that."

The bottom line is that the city is looking at \$2.2 million spread over 2005-2006 to 2008-2009, he said.

"At the end of this fiscal year, we need to have the engineering done on a new cell site," Morris said. "We're that close."

It will take about four months of construction to open a new cell.

"We have money set up to continue the new cells," Morris said. "We may fall short on the new requirements."

Horst said the new requirements last year came as a surprise and may require a transfer of funds from the general fund.

Ice

Continued from Page 1

handed, has had to write with her left hand while her right wrist heals. She has also had to put up with a fair amount of discomfort as well as difficulty performing tasks.

"I thought when you had the cast put on, the pain would quit, but it doesn't," she said. "But it gets better every day, and the amount of pain really depends on how much I use it."

Honderich wonders about the identity of an anonymous passer-by who helped her when she fell.

"Some gentleman was nice enough to help me up. I don't know who it was," she

said.

There are several things pedestrians can do to minimize their chances of falling on slick snow and ice.

"Watch for the ice patches and be more careful than you normally are," said Crawford. "Right now, what we're seeing is that there are still ice patches out there that are black ice. Just be careful where you step and wear footwear that is appropriate for the weather. Even when you think most of the ice and snow is gone, don't let your guard down."

"Move slowly and watch your step," said Glaesman. "Hold onto things like railings if you can while you're walking."

The most foolproof advice of all was offered by Reed: "Don't get out if you don't have to."

County

Continued from Page 1

"I don't think it's a good policy to give everyone a free month of insurance at the end of their employment," Hahn said. "The current wording says we pay full insurance for all departed employees for one month after they leave county employment."

Hahn pointed out that departing county employees had a 90-day option to continue their coverage retroactive to their last day of regular coverage if they decided to take the option.

Other items on the agenda include a service contract renewal with Trane, a fiscal year 2006 outside audit by Doshier, Francis and Pickens, and payment of bills and salaries.

Video of dog mauling cat leads to two Texas teens

ANGLETON, Texas (AP) — Police in this southeast Texas town want to question two teens suspected of posting a video on the Internet of a pit bulldog mauling a cat tied to a truck.

"Anybody could have watched (the video). Any 10-year-old could have looked at that," Stephanie Kohls, a police detective, told The Facts for its Wednesday editions. The page on the MySpace social-networking site that featured the video is now down.

Since the page indicated that the teens were from Angleton, a New York woman notified police here on Sunday after watching the video. Kohls, who answered the call, said that she recognized the yard in the video.

Two teens who are seen briefly in the video are being sought by police for questioning.

The teens who took the video and posted it could face animal cruelty charges for allowing the animals to fight, Kohls said. She said the video was made Thursday.

Animal cruelty is a state jail felony with a punishment range of 180 days to two years in prison.

When Kohls went to the house Tuesday to serve a warrant to pick up two pit bulls chained to the ground in the backyard, the two 17-year-olds being sought in connection with the posting were not there. The body of the cat was found in a pile of brush behind the home.

The Houston Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals took the cat's body as evidence.

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Viewpoints

Why Groundhog Day should be outlawed

Punxsutawney Phil must be stopped. The lovable little groundhog must be stopped.

You know Phil. Every Feb. 2, Groundhog Day, he is yanked from a tree stump in Punxsutawney, Pa. If he sees his shadow, his organizers allege, there will be six more weeks of winter. If he doesn't, spring will be just around the corner.

Millions have enjoyed this primitive ritual for years, but now there's a problem.

Groundhog Day evolved from Candlemas Day, a Christian tradition commemorating the purification of the Virgin Mary. As this tradition evolved in Germany, it got ever more colorful.

Germans soon believed that Candlemas Day could also predict the weather.

Somewhere along the line they began yanking a hedgehog out of a tree stump, and the tradition was born. When German immigrants settled in Punxsutawney in 1887, they brought the tradition with them.

Now we have a problem. How, in this day and age, can any government body impose on our diverse society any celebration that has its roots in a Christian faith? Aren't the people of Punxsutawney providing their de facto support of one religion over the others? Isn't their outmoded event offensive to those who practice no religion?

Isn't this annual event, then, out of sync with the American tradition of separating church and state? If

Santa Claus and Christmas trees are being banished in public squares, how can Groundhog Day not follow suit?

Groundhog Day is guilty of numerous other offenses. In Punxsutawney, the event is managed

by a group of men known as the "Inner Circle." These are the fellows who wear top hats and tuxedos and yank Phil out of the tree stump.

As usual, it is the men who are exploiting a helpless little creature for profit and greed, and men who have kept women out of leader-

ship positions within their Inner Circle clique.

The hypocrisy of these allegedly Christian fellows is staggering. They talk of how they pamper Phil. That he lives in a heated home and is fed delicious treats.

But then they boast about one especially disgusting tidbit.

Phil has a harem.

The Inner Circle provides Phil with three nubile female companions to take the edge off his lonely bachelor existence. That's right, this band of middle-aged pimps is trafficking in "woodchucks of the night."

For these reasons, I cannot understand how, in these progressive times, such an offensive primitive ritual continues to be celebrated every year.

Sure, I understand that small-minded people believe such traditions enrich our lives and bring levity to the hearts of millions.

I understand that American traditions evolved from a hodgepodge of cultural influences, and that the best of them celebrate our common humanity.

But still, Groundhog Day as we know it must end — or at least be drastically modified.

For starters, we must set Phil free. No innocent animal should be kept in captivity so that he can be exploit-

ed by greedy capitalists. We must release him back to his natural habitat immediately.

We can replace him with a less offensive living entity, such as a tree or shrub. Trees and shrubs cast shadows, too, and holding them in captivity is much more humane, since their roots keep them from roaming freely anyhow. (Perhaps we can call the event "Groundshrub Day.")

Most important, this event should be entirely secular. Any reference to the Christian past must be deleted from the official Web site. I was shocked to find such references on the existing Groundhog Day Web site.

I'm confident that if the men in the Inner Circle make See **PURCELL**, Page 8

Tom Purcell
Columnist



Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Jan. 31, the 31st day of 2007. There are 334 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 31, 1606, Guy Fawkes, convicted of treason for his part in the "Gunpowder Plot" against the English Parliament and King James I, was executed.

On this date:

In 1797, composer Franz Schubert was born in Vienna, Austria.

In 1865, General Robert E. Lee was named General-in-Chief of all the Confederate armies.

In 1917, during World War I, Germany served notice it was beginning a policy of unrestricted submarine warfare.

In 1934, President Franklin Roosevelt devalued the dollar in relation to gold.

In 1944, during World War II, U.S. forces began a successful invasion of Kwajalein Atoll and other parts of the Japanese-held Marshall Islands.

In 1945, Private Eddie Slovik, 24, became the first U.S. soldier since the Civil War to be executed for

'We live in a moment of history where change is so speeded up that we begin to see the present only when it is disappearing.'

— R.D. Laing
Scottish psychiatrist
(1927-1989)

desertion as he was shot by an American firing squad in France.

In 1958, the United States entered the Space Age with its first successful launch of a satellite into orbit, Explorer I.

In 1971, astronauts Alan B. Shepard Jr., Edgar D. Mitchell and Stuart A. Roosa blasted off aboard Apollo 14 on a mission to the moon.

In 1987, discount airline pioneer People Express flew its last flights before merging into Continental Airlines.

In 2000, an Alaska Airlines jet plummeted into the Pacific Ocean, killing all 88 people aboard.

Ten years ago: Three days of deliberations in the O.J. Simpson civil trial in Santa Monica, Calif., were scrapped and the jury forced to start all over again after the only black woman on the panel was replaced because of misconduct.

Five years ago: The Bush administration handed abortion opponents a symbolic victory, classifying a developing fetus as an "unborn child" as a way of extending prenatal care to low-income pregnant women under the State Children's Health Insurance Program. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said in a speech that the United States had to prepare for potential surprise attacks "vastly more deadly" than those on Nine-Eleven.



News is not news when spooned up by liars

The central question of our time is, Can the American people gain enough factual information to determine the truth about the issues that face them?

Sadly, I'm inclined to think not. In the past, America was dotted with newspapers that were owned by people who lived in the community they served — newspapers that were supported by the advertising of businesses that were owned by people living in the community. In both cases, this economic independence translated into independence of thought.

Today, that is far less true. Probably a majority of newspapers, radio stations and television stations are owned by absentee corporations. Most of the businesses whose advertising supports local media are likewise owned by absentee corpora-

tions. To understand what a tremendous change this is, remember that owners decide — everybody else is an employee whose future with the corporation rests solely on pleasing the owners. No employee, whether an executive or a worker, can afford to antagonize the owners if he values his job. And everything except ownership is a job.

Ah, but what about the Internet? In the first place, there are fewer computer owners than you might think, and not all of them are computer literate. A huge amount of the information on the Internet is junk and rubbish and propaganda.

There are more information spewers than there are information gatherers. A great deal of it is geek talk, reflecting the endless fascination of some people with gadgets. There is gossip and entertainment hype, and there are the unsubstantiated opinions of people who just want to vent.

As the old saying goes, opinions are like elbows: Most people have at least two. But whether an opinion is of any value or not depends on the amount of research and intelligence behind it. Certainly if you had a heart attack, you wouldn't go to a car salesman for an opinion about what you should do. A great many opinions are birthed by paycheck and

self-interest. You wouldn't last very long at the Heritage Foundation if you decided that there were serious flaws in capitalism that needed addressing.

It goes back to the golden rule: Those who have the gold rule. Big donors to various foundations and think tanks aren't supporting pure research; they are subsidizing opinions and interests they already hold. The fact is that despite the communications revolution, or perhaps because of it, finding facts and truth are more difficult today than in the past.

It's also a fact that government routinely lies, and so do many corporations. That mysterious commitment to the public good, which once joined Americans from many different classes and positions, seems to have dissolved. Integrity, which sim- See **REESE**, Page 8

Charley Reese
Columnist



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Texas Thoughts

By The Associated Press

A sample of editorial opinion around Texas:

■ Jan. 22

Austin American-Statesman on U.S. wiretapping:

Elections have consequences. Just ask U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales, who announced last week that President Bush will no longer order wiretaps without the approval of a special federal court.

In the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States, the president had allowed the National Security Administration to wiretap without a warrant telephone conversations and electronic mail between a party in the United States

and one outside the country. The program was not disclosed to the public until The New York Times reported it in December 2005.

Until last week, the president had defended the program as a constitutional use of his authority to defend the nation. He and his supporters also argued that it was not legally necessary, and not practical, to first get court approval.

But critics in Congress and elsewhere, including this newspaper, argued that not only was court approval necessary, the procedure itself was already in place, had been for years and posed no obstacle to the government when it needed to move quickly.

The Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court was created in 1978

to handle such sensitive situations, is highly secretive and has rarely denied approval of a wiretap request. The law even provides for situations in which, in emergencies, the wiretap can be placed first and the warrant sought shortly thereafter.

The issue is not whether to wiretap of course persons suspected by the government of terrorist activities ought to be investigated. And to date, we know of no instance in which the Bush administration wiretapped political enemies or critics.

But no president, regardless of party, should have the power to order a wiretap on the private conversations and messages of someone in the United

See **OPINION**, Page 8

Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: My sister, "Elizabeth," died recently. She had adopted a baby at birth and insisted that the child not be told that she was adopted. The "child" is now in her 50s, and we think that for years she may have suspected that she was adopted because she's different in appearance and temperament from other family members. On the off chance that she has siblings, would it be wise to inform her at this late date of her adoption? I think the reason Elizabeth didn't want her to know was that she was afraid of losing her daughter's affections. I did not agree with that decision, but I honored it while my sister was alive. What are your thoughts on this matter? — **STAYING MUTE IN NEW JERSEY**

DEAR STAYING MUTE: Remain mute no longer. Your niece has a right to know her personal history. Adoption stopped being considered a deep, dark secret decades ago. I am sure she will have mixed feelings knowing this was kept from her for so long -- but it's important you share with her any and all information you have so that she can initiate a search if she wishes. At the least, she should know if there is a genetic predisposition to any illnesses in her background.

DEAR ABBY: Is it appropriate for my husband's mother to take him alone to dinner to celebrate his birthday? We have been married for 13 years and have two children, yet she did not include the rest of us. My husband thinks it's because she can't afford dinner for all of us, but I think she should then just order a pizza and have us to her house. This is the third or fourth time she has invited him to dinner without including us, and I am hurt that I am

excluded. Should I not take this personally? — **LEFT OUT ON THE LEFT COAST**

DEAR LEFT OUT: If his mother wants alone time with her son, she could invite him to join her for lunch that day so they could talk privately. As it stands, I agree, you are being excluded -- and I'm curious about why your husband would go along with it.

DEAR ABBY: We moved to a small (six-house) cul-de-sac last October, and a few weeks later we were outside raking leaves. Two of our neighbors were outside as well, and no one introduced themselves or even waved. We left a very friendly subdivision and were hoping to find the same in our new neighborhood. We are just looking for a smile, and someone to watch our house if we're out of town, etc. We'd be happy to return the favor. Any advice for this new neighbor? When we bought the house we were told that all the neighbors were friendly and about our age. — **UNHAPPY IN THE CUL-DE-SAC**

DEAR UNHAPPY: Please do not make a snap decision about your new neighbors. The "natives" may, indeed, be friendly. They may not, however, be as outgoing as your former neighbors were. My advice is to go to each of them, introduce yourself, perhaps invite them over for coffee, and let them get to know you. Relationships take time to build, and not everyone may respond as you wish, but I'm betting some of them will. Hold a good thought.

For Better Or For Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

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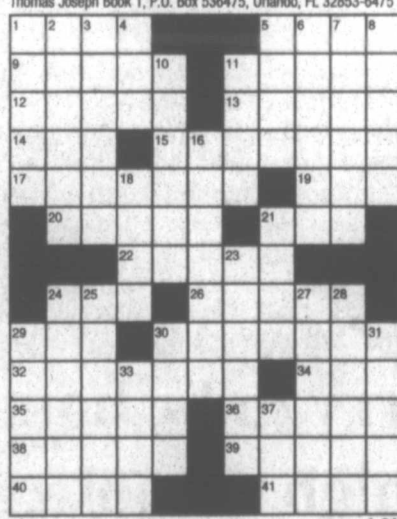
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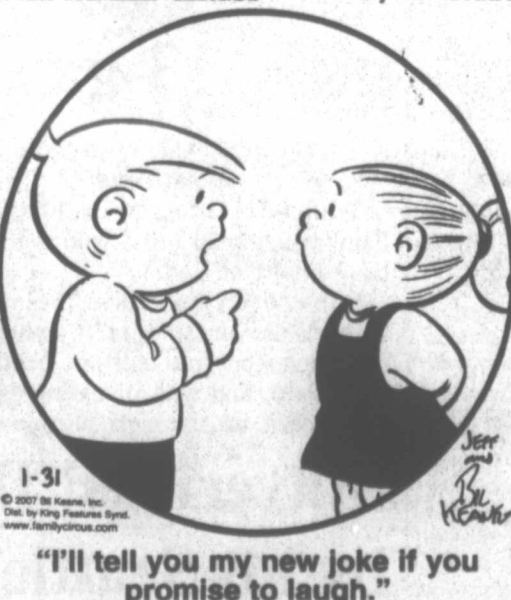
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The Family Circus

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

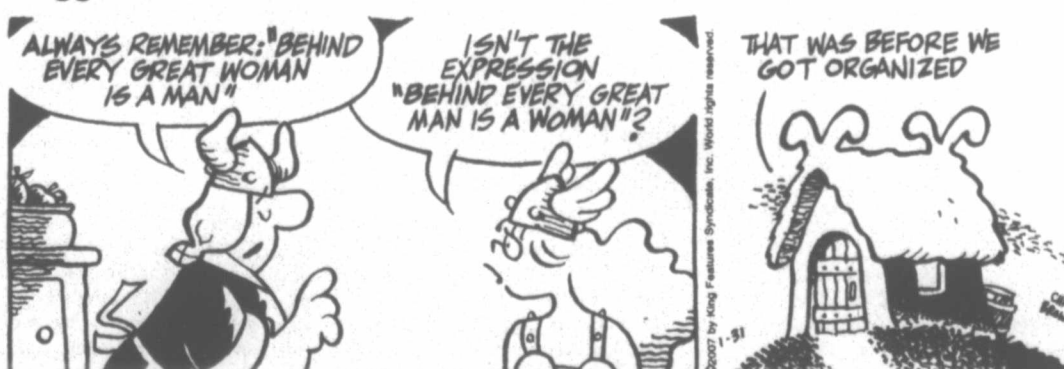
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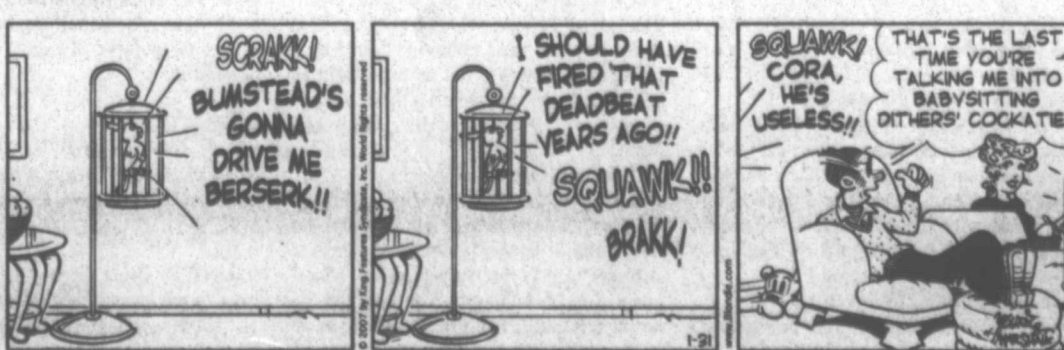
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Peanuts



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Flo & Friends



Sports Day

Harvesters fall to the Dons, harshly outscored again

By JORDAN REAGAN
Sports Editor

The Pampa Harvesters had a rough night on Tuesday, when both the boys and girls varsity suffered tough losses at Palo Duro.

The boys faced the 9th ranked Dons, and suffered a harsh 96-52 loss, 7 points worse than their previous loss to Palo Duro on Jan. 12, dropping them to 4-24 overall and 1-5 for district.

Tyler Hall led the boys with 16 points, followed by Trent Harris and Alex Clenedening with 9 points each.

The JV boys lost by 4 to Palo Duro, 82-78.

With a score almost identical to that of the last time they faced off, the Lady Harvesters lost to Palo Duro,

78-50.

Currently undefeated for district, Palo Duro improved to 8-0, and 25-5 overall after defeating Pampa Tuesday night.

Pampa, now 4-4 for district and 12-14 overall, was led by Britteni Rice with 18 points, and Jasmine Moore with 10.

The girls JV, led by Trisha Moore with 6 points, also lost to Palo Duro, 60-30.

The Harvesters will play again Friday, taking on Hereford at McNeely Field House in Pampa.

The varsity girls will go on at 6 p.m. and the boys at 7:30. The JV boys will play at 6 p.m. at the MPAC gym, and the JV girls will follow at 7:30.



Senior Bradley Johnson goes for 2 for the Harvesters Tuesday night against Palo Duro.

Manning savors his shot at the title

MIAMI (AP) — For 60 minutes the questions came at Peyton Manning, sometimes several at once, on topics ranging from his childhood to "American Idol" to Sunday's game against the Chicago Bears.

Facing a semicircle of reporters and cameramen six deep, Manning joked a little, reminisced a lot and seemed to enjoy his first Super Bowl media day.

Still to come are the 60 minutes that matter most, when Manning's Indianapolis Colts play Chicago for the NFL title.

But while Bears center Olin Kreutz grumbled that he might prefer a trip to the dentist over Tuesday's interview marathon, Manning embraced media day as part of what makes the Super Bowl America's favorite carnival.

"I've seen it in years past," Manning said from a seat along the sideline at Dolphin Stadium, his back to the field. "You always wish you were up here. That's one of the hard things.

"Not only are you not playing in the game, but you're seeing other teams play in it that you feel like you had a better team than them, but they were the ones who earned it. We're glad to be here this year."

Manning's counterpart, Bears quarterback Rex Grossman, said he also appreciated the media attention. He attracted a much smaller crowd than Manning, but the questions

came in a flurry — including one about whether Grossman found such a flurry of questions overwhelming.

"It's not that big a deal," Grossman said with a smile. "I'm just talking to you guys."

"It's a big game. Everyone wants to know all the subplots to it and every little detail. It's exciting for us that our sport is so popular and people care and will read about what we say and listen to us. It just makes it that much more exciting."

Grossman is a subplot — an erratic young quarterback who can only hope his bi-rhythms happen to peak around kickoff. Manning is the biggest story of the week, which is why his interview session drew by far the largest horde on media day.

The game's most prolific passer is playing in the Super Bowl for the first time at age 30. His father, Archie, was a star NFL quarterback for 14 years who never had a shot at a title. Younger brother Eli has yet to come close in three seasons with the New York Giants.

So Manning relishes the chance Sunday offers.

"You feel a small window of opportunity," he said. "While we're here, we sure want to go ahead and win it."

Flanked by two loudspeakers that allowed even the back row to hear his soft New Orleans drawl, Manning was expansive discussing his family, the challenges of his job and the frustration of failing to reach the Super Bowl in the past.



McKensie East brings the ball under the goal through Palo Duro's tough defense Tuesday night.

LeBron sits, Cavs win; Lakers can't overcome loss of Kobe

By The Associated Press

No LeBron James, no problem for Cleveland. Life without Kobe Bryant wasn't so easy for the Lakers.

Sasha Pavlovic scored a career-high 24 points filling in for his injured teammate and the Cavaliers rolled without their superstar, pounding the Golden State Warriors 124-97 Tuesday night.

James missed his second

game in a less than a week with a sprained right big toe, an injury that isn't going to improve without rest. Cleveland's medical staff advised James to take the night off and there's a chance he could miss more games.

While the Cavaliers didn't need James against the Warriors, Los Angeles couldn't overcome the loss of Kobe Bryant in a 99-94 loss to the New York Knicks.

Bryant was suspended one game without pay earlier Tuesday for hitting San Antonio's Manu Ginobili in the face late in the Lakers' overtime loss to the Spurs on Sunday.

But the Knicks, who last week lost at Miami in a game both Dwyane Wade and Shaquille O'Neal missed, knew not to take Los Angeles lightly.

"You're never going to blow them out," Knicks

coach Isiah Thomas said. "They're a team with a great coach who understands how to manipulate a game and keep his team close, and they've got good shooters."

"Very rarely do you have blowouts and we didn't think that by no means that we were going to blow them out. But I'm glad Kobe didn't play. I'm really happy he didn't play."

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, Feb. 1, 2007:

You have energy and ideas, though inevitably you'll hit an obstacle or two this year. The smart approach will be to let others have their way, as experience is the best teacher. The only control you can exercise is over yourself. Popularity and opportunity multiply with a laissez-faire attitude. With the right attitude, the world could be your oyster. Try not to scatter, keeping in mind your goals and long-term desires. If you are single, you might give up that status, as many will want to be your forever sweetie. If you are attached, your relationship will benefit from openness and a willingness to try or experience life from your sweetie's side. LEO can be demanding.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ No matter which way you turn, you could feel a bit awkward. Though ingenuity certainly plays a role in your life, it might not take some of the difficult moments away. Chalk up discomfort to the planets right now. Tonight: Let off steam.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★ Stay close to home, if possible. Many people and happenings seem to tilt you off-center. You would be happier relaxing and perhaps cocooning. Remember, you don't have to be available to all the people all of the time! Tonight: Homeward bound.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ What you say might be right-on,

but one would be hard-pressed to tell it by observing others' responses. Ultimately, what you verbalize and do needs to reflect you and not others. Plans do change. Tonight: Out and about.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Dig into your imagination and deal with issues directly and with finesse. How you handle a money matter might be clear to you, but not to others. What becomes evident is that you cannot control others. Tonight: Don't splurge!

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ You are all smiles but do have difficulty handling someone in a more direct and complete manner. You might want to try another approach or do something different. Others challenge your thinking and style! Stay secure. Tonight: Just smile.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★ Know when to cut your losses and say "enough." You could be tired and withdrawn because of what is going on. You might need some personal time. Don't put yourself last all the time. Tonight: Get some extra R and R.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ You know what you want. Though you might want to zoom in and make it yours, this behavior could be a problem. Others are not as compliant as you might like. Sometimes their attitude or gestures say it all. Tonight: Happy as a cat.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Though others want you to be in the limelight and take charge, they might not make it easy. Ignore underground currents. Don't be surprised by someone's direct challenge. You can handle nearly anything. Tonight: Expect to be in

demand.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Taking an overview could be challenging. Others might be reactive and in a difficult mood. You could be out of sorts as well. Events and people don't calm down, but only become more lively. Tonight: Talk up a storm.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Handle finances as directly as possible. You might want to gain a new perspective or do something a lot differently. Give yourself permission to flow and move with opportunities. Visualize and create with the help of a partner. Tonight: Let someone else make the call.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ You might be more challenging than you realize when dealing with the many people in your life. Know when to step back and make what you would like, happen. Listen to what others say, but don't feel like you need to go with the program. Tonight: Just flow.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★ When your energy is off, you might be well advised to pull back and change directions. Your ability to realize more of what you want might be off. Just hang out or take a personal day. Avoid getting into new projects. Tonight: What would be restful?

BORN TODAY

Singer Don Everly (1937), former Russian leader Boris Yeltsin (1931), musician Rick James (1948)

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>.

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Palo Duro breaks freshman girls' 13-game winning streak

By JORDAN REAGAN
Sports Editor

With a 51-33 loss to Palo Duro, the Pampa freshman girls' winning streak has come to an end.

Still with an impressive 16-2 record, the girls are on top of their game.

Pampa went into halftime behind by 5 at 20-15, and with many attempts to catch back up the girls narrowed the

gap to 3 halfway through the third quarter at 26-23.

Four turnovers and 9 points later, the girls found themselves too far behind going into the fourth quarter.

Ashley Facio led the team with 11 points, and Andi Hutto helped with 6 points and 6 rebounds.

The girls will play again in Pampa at 10 a.m. Saturday against Hereford.

Mavericks' Terry to be honored by his Seattle high school

SEATTLE (AP) — Dallas Mavericks guard Jason Terry is returning to his high school alma mater to have his jersey retired.

Terry was scheduled to be at Franklin High School in Seattle on Friday for a ceremony honoring him for leading the Quakers to consecutive state basketball championships, in 1994 and '95. The 1995 Franklin graduate starred at the University of Arizona before becoming the 10th overall choice in the 1999 NBA draft. "I am very honored to come back

home to a place that jump-started my career," Terry said in a statement provided through the Mavericks. "Franklin High School holds a very close place in my heart and gave me the foundation that has allowed me to have success today."

The event will precede Friday night's game between Franklin and its biggest rival, Garfield. Former Franklin coach Ron Drayton will present Terry with his framed, No. 31 Quakers jersey in front of other special guests.

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Events calendar

- **The Center for Cultural Interchange**, a foreign exchange service, is currently seeking host families for exchange students. Host families are required to provide a room and two meals a day to the guest student. For more information, call 1-800-605-2341.
- **Special Delivery Infant Adoption Agency** will conduct a meeting for couples interested in adoption at 2 p.m. Feb. 3 at 3611 S. Soncy Road, #5D, in Amarillo. To register, call (806) 367-6755.
- **"Our Diamond Miss"** Youth Achievement Program has been rescheduled for 1 p.m. Feb. 3 at Pampa Optimist Club.
- **BSA Hospice** will offer a volunteer training and community education class in eight sessions from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, Feb. 6-March 1 at 800 N. Sumner. To register for the free training, call 665-6677 or 1-800-658-6985.
- **Panhandle Tourism Marketing Council** will meet at 12 p.m. Feb. 2 in El Camino restaurant in Tulia. Participants must RSVP by Jan. 31 by contacting rock@tomatographics.com. The council seeks to promote tourism in the top 26 counties of the Texas Panhandle through a variety of means. Monthly membership meetings are conducted the first Friday of each month. Guests and new members are welcome.
- **The Texas Department of State Health Services** will be offering immunization clinics for vaccines that give protection against several childhood diseases including polio, diphtheria, lock jaw (tetanus), whooping cough (pertussis), measles, rubella, mumps, HIB (haemophilus influenzae Type B) and chickenpox (varicella). Flu vaccines may also be offered at designated clinics. The TDH will charge money to help with the cost of keeping the clinic open. The amount charged will be based on family income and size, and the ability to pay. The following clinic(s) will be offered: 9:30-11:45 a.m. and 1-3:30 p.m., Feb. 7 and 21, 736 S. Cuyler, Pampa.

- **Texas Beef Council and Texas Cooperative Extension** will conduct "Beef 706" at Texas A&M University Feb. 7-9. The program will focus on the steps involved with cattle from live evaluation to grid marketing to boxed beef fabrication. Beef 706 is a hands-on workshop that teaches beef quality management practices and value determination. It is free to both cattlemen and agents. For more information, call 669-8033. To register, call 1-800-846-4113.
- **Amarillo Museum of Art** will host a "Children's Heart Art Valentine Workshop" from 10-11:30 a.m. Feb. 10 at the museum, 2200 S. Van Buren, Amarillo. The event is open to children between the ages of 4 and 10. Participants will make Valentine cards and gifts. Refreshments will be served. The registration fee is \$15. For more information or to register, call (806) 371-5050.
- **"Developing This Year's Marketing Plan for Feed Grains,"** a seminar for cattle producers, has been rescheduled for Feb. 12-13 at the Texas A&M University System Agricultural Research and Extension Center in Amarillo. For more information, call (806) 677-5600.
- **Pampa Book Club** will have scheduled to discuss the following books: "First Man in Rome" by Colleen McCullough, Feb. 14; "Widow in the South" by Robert Hicks, March 14; "Peace Like a River" by Leif Enger, April 11; and "The Last Promise" by Richard Evans, May 9. The group meets at 10 a.m. in the Texas Room at Lovett Memorial Library in Pampa.
- **The deadline to enter the Christian Poets Guild poetry contest** is Feb. 14. To enter, send one poem of 21 lines or less to Free Poetry Contest, 1638 Dogwood Lane, Ackworth, GA 30102-1820; or enter online at www.freecontest.com. If you wish a winner's list, enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope with the entry.

Reese

Continued from Page 4

ply means being true regardless of consequences to one's own beliefs, seems to have no market value in America today.

Self-government only works if the people have access to the truth. If they are lied to and propagandized instead of informed, then they, in fact, live in

a dictatorship, though one carefully disguised by their controllers. That's why Thomas Jefferson said that newspapers that whore for political parties or other interests are no different than newspapers controlled by a government.

Take this little test: Pick out any national issue or any national political figure and ask yourself, What do I really know about this issue or this person? The honest answer in most cases will be not much that hasn't

been spoon-fed to you by liars and propagandists.

More use of libraries and less television watching, as well as breaking up media conglomerates, are necessary steps toward regaining self-government. Of course, if you don't care for independence, then relax. The controllers will give you what they think you need to be a good sheep.

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

Opinion

Cont. from Page 4

States without the constitutional check of court approval. It's far too tempting for those given such unlimited power to apply it ever more widely and eventually threaten the privacy of all.

The Bush administration complained of shortcomings in the 1978 law, but it never asked Congress to change it, and few in the Republican majorities in the House and Senate challenged the administration's assertion of wiretapping authority.

But the Nov. 7 election installed Democratic majorities much more willing to take on the president on the wiretap issue and other matters touching on national security and Americans' civil rights. And so on Wednesday, Gonzales suddenly announced that the administration had worked out its problems with the special court and that wiretaps would be submitted to it for approval.

Some in Congress suspect the administration is playing word games, and Gonzales fed that suspicion by refusing to give details about the new policy during an appearance before a Senate committee on Thursday. On the other hand, conservative voices that had stoutly defended the presidential refusal to get warrants for the wiretaps were outraged by the administration's sudden about-face.

Whatever its motive, the Bush administration was right to start going to the court to get the warrants, and we hope the court itself will not be a rubber stamp for this or any other administration.

Purcell

Continued from Page 4
 these needed changes — and if they begin admitting women to leadership positions immediately — the Groundshrub Day tradition will continue for many years to come.
 If they don't, the ACLU is likely to take these suggestions seriously and file suit within the week.
 —Tom Purcell is a humor columnist nationally syndicated exclusively by Cagle Cartoons.

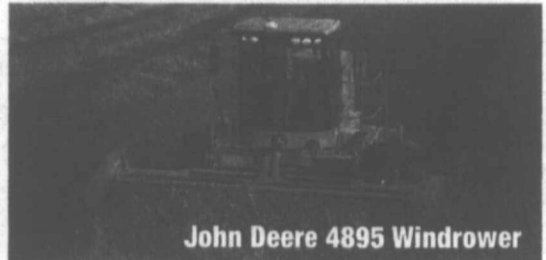
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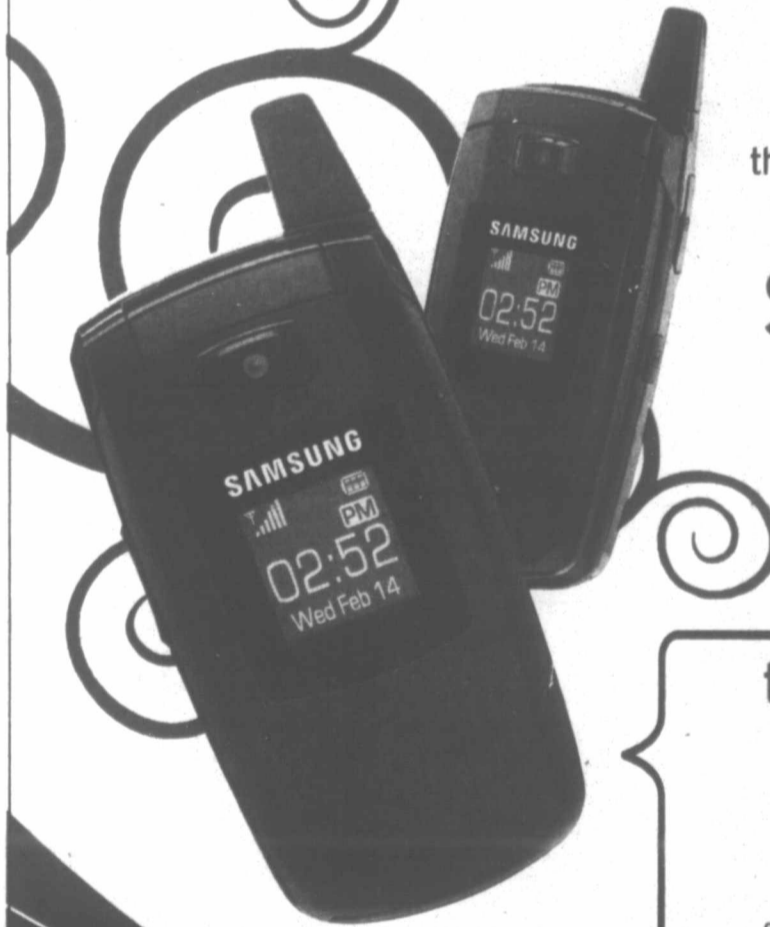
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