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See expanded weather on Page 2

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Pampa News photos by MARILYN POWERS

Officer Mike Ryan of Pampa Police Department, in photo at left, was among law enforcement officers blocking pedestrian and vehicular traffic along Kingsmill Avenue in the vicinity of Gray County Courthouse this morning after a bomb threat concerning the building was received by emergency dispatchers. Traffic along other streets in the vicinity was also blocked as the courthouse was evacuated and a search for an explosive device was conducted. A command post, in photo at right, was set up in a vacant lot north of the courthouse for emergency vehicles from Pampa Fire Department and Guardian EMS Ambulance. No bomb was found by law enforcement officers who searched the courthouse.

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Bomb threat empties courthouse, bank downtown

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

A bomb threat emptied Gray County Courthouse at 9:37 a.m. today after an anonymous caller told emergency dispatchers that an explosive device had been placed inside an office in the building.

FirstBank Southwest, 300 W. Kingsmill, which is immediately west of the courthouse at 205 N. Russell, was also evacuated, although the motor bank remained open during the evacuation. First

State Bank of Miami, across the street east of the courthouse, did not evacuate, according to a bank spokeswoman.

Gray County Sheriff's Office, Pampa Police Department, Texas Department of Public Service, Pampa Fire Department, and Guardian EMS Ambulance responded to the call. A command post was set up in a vacant lot immediately north of the courthouse.

Courthouse employees were evacuated to the sheriff's office while

four sheriff's office representatives searched the courthouse for any potential bombs.

"We evacuated the building, searched the building down and found nothing," said GCSO Lt. Joe B. Hoard.

Kingsmill and Francis avenues were blocked by law enforcement along a three-block stretch, along with the 200 blocks of North Russell and North Frost streets. Pedestrians were also warned away from the area.

An all-clear was pronounced at about 10:30 a.m. after the search of the courthouse was completed and no bomb was found.

The source of the bomb threat was not known as of press time, according to Sheriff Don Copeland.

Several persons have been interviewed by local law enforcement agencies concerning the threat, according to Pampa Police Department Assistant Chief Dennis Burton.

Man threatens to shoot in standoff

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

A standoff ended early this morning in the 300 block of Tuke Street after a man who had barricaded himself inside a house and threatened to shoot law enforcement officers gave himself up.

Officers of Pampa Police Department had gone to the house at 327 E. Tuke at about 6:16 a.m. in search of a wanted man who was suspected of being at the address.

The man who answered the door was not the man officers were searching for, said PPD Assistant Chief Dennis Burton.

"He threatened the officers by saying that he'd shoot at them," Burton said. "Next, they heard a loud bang and thought they'd been

shot at."

A one-block area around the house was secured for public safety. Lt. Kenneth Hopson spoke to the man by using a public address system and asked the man to come out of the house.

The man emerged, and although officers realized he wasn't the one they had been looking for, he was arrested for having threatened the officers.

John Frank Robinson Jr., 53, of Kerrick was arrested and booked into Gray County Jail on a charge of making a terroristic threat. He remained in jail as of press time pending bond, which had not yet been set.

See STANDOFF, Page 5

McLean EMS to provide emergency care classes

McLEAN — McLean's EMS will conduct Emergency Care Attendant classes beginning March 19 and continuing through May 17.

Classes will be held Mondays and Thursdays from 6 to 10 p.m. and some Saturdays in the basement of McLean Methodist Church by instructor Pam Skipper and assistant Roni Anderson.

Those who want to

attend must have a current CPR certificate before they can attend the ECA class.

A CPR class is offered at 8 a.m. on March 17, taught by Danny Whittington of Shamrock. A \$10 fee will apply for the CPR class, which will be held at the Methodist Church.

For more information or to register for either class, call Pam at 806 779-2872 or Roni at 806 334-0296.

No action taken on proposed reinvestment zone

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

Gray County commissioners took no action following a 40-minute executive session Thursday morning concerning the establishment of a reinvestment zone.

"We just talked about potential contractual agreements that the court would like to see," said County Judge Richard Peet of the executive session.

Commissioners agreed to establish guidelines for the zone during their Feb. 15 meeting. A public hearing concerning the proposed zone was held at 10 a.m. Thursday during

the regular commission meeting in the second-floor courtroom at the county courthouse.

No one asked to speak during the public hearing, which was declared closed after four minutes. Commissioners then went into executive session to discuss details of establishing the zone and what tax abatements would be available to businesses locating in the zone or improving currently existing property in the zone.

The purpose of such a zone, once called an enterprise zone, is to attract business to the area, Peet said. Businesses may apply for tax abate-

ments if they locate within the zone or make improvements to property they operate within the zone.

Tax abatements may range from 0 to 100 percent over a time span of up to 10 years. A company receiving an abatement may be required to pay, for example, 85 percent of the value of the company property for the first five years. After the abatement agreement has expired, the company would pay regular property tax amounts annually.

Commissioners took the first step toward establishing a re-investment zone when they agreed during their Feb. 15 meeting to draw up guide-

lines for the proposed zone. The public hearing was the second step, and the final steps are to adopt a resolution establishing the zone, with available tax abatements and other specifics determined.

Counties which establish reinvestment zones may require certain actions of the businesses which apply for tax abatements, Peet said, including maintaining a certain number of employees.

Some improvements to already-existing businesses within the zone could be eligible for tax abatement.

See ZONE, Page 5

NEXT DAY FORECAST

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Partly cloudy	Partly cloudy	Partly cloudy

Wednesday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 61. Wind chill values between 25 and 30 early. North-northeast wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 39. Northeast wind 5 to 15 mph becoming south.

Thursday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 69. South-southwest wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 45. South-southeast wind 15 to 20 mph becoming west-southwest. Winds could gust as high as 25 mph.

Friday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 67. North-northwest wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 43. Northeast wind around 10 mph.

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Obituaries

Services tomorrow

LARGENT, Bill C. — Memorial services, 2:30 p.m., Champions Forest Baptist Church, Houston.

Ellen Tuanette Finney, 93

Ellen Tuanette Finney, 93, of Pampa died March 5, 2007, at Amarillo. Services are pending with Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors of Pampa. —Sign the on-line register book at www.carmichael-whatley.com.

Bill C. Largent



Largent

A loving husband, father and grandfather passed away at home on March 5, 2007. A memorial service shall take place at Champions Forest Baptist Church Houston, Texas, at 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 7, 2007. Immediately following the memorial service, friends are invited to gather with the family for a reception. A private burial will take place thereafter in Edmond, Oklahoma.

Born in Hereford, Texas on September 18, 1929, to Johnny and Vina Largent, Bill spent his life loving and raising his family and pursuing his second love of land and mineral exploration. After graduating from Pampa High School in 1949, Bill enrolled in Midwestern

University where he met the true love of his life, Elsie Pierce, and later earned his degree in geology. Following graduation, he enlisted and served two years in the Army. After his discharge in 1956, Bill joined Phillips Petroleum and moved his young family to Bartlesville, Oklahoma, and thereafter moving to Midland, Texas. Further pursuing his love of geology and with an entrepreneurial appetite, Bill, in 1982, became President of Moran Exploration, now known as Kaneb Production, and moved to Houston.

For the past 45 years, Bill has remained a highly respected, independent oil and gas geologist, producer, operator, investor and oil industry executive. After his official retirement, he and Elsie, as partners, opened a family business, Elsie's Consignment House. For the past 15 years Bill has been a member of Champions Forest Baptist Church.

Bill is preceded in death by his father Johnny and his son, Dr. Larry Mark Largent. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Elsie; his daughter, Lana Lance and spouse, Jerry; his daughter, Kathryn Cosby

and spouse, Don, together with his grandchildren, Danielle and Gerald Lance and Tucker and Anne Claire Cosby. He is also survived by his mother, Vina, and brother, Dale and his spouse, Shirley; nieces, nephew, mother-in-law and a host of good friends. He leaves a void in the lives of all that knew him.

The family thanks two special caregivers, Gloria Renteria and Joachim Nyingo for their extraordinary care. The family also invites online tributes to be made at Chron.com. Memorials honoring the life and friendships of Bill Largent may be made to Gideon International, P.O. Box 140800, Nashville, TN 37214-0800.

Emergency Services

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

Three traffic stops were made, resulting in at least one arrest.

Traffic complaints were

received from the 1200 block of Market and the intersection of Hobart and Wilks streets.

Motorist assistance was rendered at the intersection of Crawford Street and Neel Road.

An abandoned vehicle was reported on two occasions in the 300 block of North Sumner.

Vehicle accidents were reported in the 100 block of East Harvester and the intersection of 23rd and Duncan streets.

Driving while license is revoked was reported in the 400 block of East Foster. An arrest was made in connection with the incident.

Animal control officers made stops concerning animals in the 100 block of West 26th, the 1900 block of North Banks, the 700 block of North Frost, the intersection of Albert and Henry streets, an unreported location, the intersection of Allen and Magnolia streets, the 1100 block of Neel Road, the 100 block of North Hobart, the 2700 block of Beech, the 2100 block of North Russell, the 500 block of South Russell and the intersection of Christy and Gwendolyn streets.

Agency assistance was rendered in the 800 block of East Browning, the 600 block of East Craven and on two occasions in the 1100 block of Seneca.

Lost property was reported in the police department lobby. A wallet and contents, including cash, was lost. Estimated value of loss is \$250.

Welfare checks were made in the 200 block of

North Russell and the 200 block of South Cuyler.

Warrant service was attempted on two occasions. One incident also involved possession of drug paraphernalia in the 700 block of West Francis, where an arrest was made in connection with the incident.

Suspicious person calls were received from the 600 block of West Foster and the 700 block of West Francis, where an arrest was made in connection with the incident.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 800 block of East Foster. An arrest was made in connection with the incident.

Public intoxication was reported in the 200 block of South Cuyler. An arrest was made in connection with the incident.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 1500 block of North Christy. Yard lanterns valued at \$120 were damaged.

Criminal trespass was reported in the 500 block of North Frost.

Telephone harassment was reported on two occasions in the police department lobby.

Domestic disturbances were reported in the 500 block of North Naida and the 1300 block of Garland.

Sex offender registration was reported in the police department lobby.

Theft was reported in the 1300 block of Coffee and the 300 block of West Albert.

Theft was reported at Radio Shack, 1820 N. Hobart. A camera flip phone valued at \$449 was taken.

Forgery was reported at

Doug Boyd Motors, 821 W. Wilks. The incident involved a counterfeit money order valued at \$900.

Burglary was reported in the 1200 block of Williston.

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

Monday, March 5

Oaty Don Scott, 31, of Pampa was arrested in the 400 block of East Foster by Pampa Police Department for driving while license is invalid and failure to register vehicle.

June Vacker Thomas, 64, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO for theft by check.

Jon Wyatt Roe, 38, of Lefors was arrested by the Lefors City Marshal for injury to a child/elderly/disabled person with intent to cause bodily injury.

Shirlynn Melina Foshee, 23, of Pampa was arrested in the 2300 block of Duncan by PPD for theft of property by check and nine counts of issuing a bad check.

Malcome Bryan Nichols, 45, of Pampa was arrested in the 700 block of Lefors by PPD for failure to appear, operating a vehicle with no license plate, no valid driver's license and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Luis Chavez Rubio, 45, of Pampa was arrested in the 300 block of South Cuyler by PPD for public intoxication.

Tuesday, March 6

Billy Hagerman, 50, of Pampa was arrested in the 1100 block of Crane Road by PPD for no valid driver's license, expired motor vehicle inspection and warrants for no seat belt and no valid driver's license.

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REMEMBRANCE- THIS March marks the 1 year anniversary of the largest wildfires in Texas History. Copies of the Wildfire Magazines are available at *The Pampa News*, 403 W. Atchison, 669-2525. (\$10 or can be mailed to you for \$11.50.)

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Viewpoints

Severe weather week may herald spring storms

Perhaps one of the most famous tornadoes that has been seen by the largest number of people is the one which lifted Dorothy and her dog Toto out of Kansas and dropped them, house and all, on top of the Wicked Witch of the East in the Land of Oz.

Anyone who has boned up on severe weather facts knows what's wrong with this picture. It is extremely unlikely, in fact all but impossible, that any house which is picked up by a tornado would hit the ground still in one piece.

This is Severe Weather Awareness Week, which means that spring storms can't be far behind. Tornadoes have already hit in several places this year, including last week's devastat-

ing tornadoes which killed 20 people in the southeast, among them eight high school students in Enterprise, Ala., when a twister slammed into their school.

As a lifelong resident of this area, I have had my share of brushes with hail, high winds, blinding downpours, tornadoes and even a flash flood.

When I was elementary-school age, I remember heading to the neighbors' storm cellar whenever the town's siren would signal a tornado "take cover" wail. One time, I even saw the tornado churning along open pasture a couple of miles away as we headed to the nearest bolthole.

No tornadoes damaged anything belonging to me or

mine until I was in high school. I was on a school bus returning from a University Interscholastic League competition in Lubbock when we heard via a broadcast on someone's portable radio that a tornado was on the ground near home and the "take cover" alert had been sounded there.

As soon as we got to our high school at White Deer, we had to head to the school's basement until the "all clear" sounded. Then those of us, including me, who lived in Skellytown had to get on home.

My family and I had lived in Skellytown until I was in

the seventh grade, when Daddy got a promotion and we moved to a gasoline camp a few miles outside town to live in a company house.

That turned out to be an advantage a few years later. No one lived in the little house in town that we still owned on the night the tornado hit.

The tornado itself didn't hit the house. The roof of a house on the other end of the block landed atop our house, tearing up one room.

There have been other tornadoes which hit close to home since then, including one which destroyed proper-

ty outside Pampa in the 1980s and the June 8, 1995, tornado which caused the most damage on the west side of town.

I was on my way back from a meeting in Amarillo that June day when Tam Terry of Carson County Sheriff's Office began stopping vehicles in the east-bound lanes of Highway 60 at Celanese. I had been listening to a cassette tape in my car, and hadn't heard about the tornado which had just hit Pampa.

I was one of the first in line, and switched from cassette to radio station. A bulletin about the tornado was being given at that time, and I decided I had to find a way to get home. My husband, mother and pets were in town, and I desperately

wanted to see if everyone was OK.

I turned my car around and headed back west until I reached a highway which connected Highway 60 with Highway 152. I once again headed east, only to see another roadblock as I approached Pampa.

Once again I turned and headed north, this time on a dirt road which connected Highway 152 with West Kentucky Avenue. I then turned east once again, and stopped at a roadblock manned by a Texas Department of Public Safety trooper at the intersection of Kentucky and Price Road.

I explained that I lived in Pampa and had relatives in Pampa, and showed him my

See POWERS, Page 10

Marilyn Powers

Staff Writer



Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, March 6, the 65th day of 2007. There are 300 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

One hundred and fifty years ago, on March 6, 1857, the United States Supreme Court ruled in Dred Scott v. Sandford that Scott, a slave, was not a U.S. citizen and could not sue for his freedom in federal court.

On this date:

In 1834, the city of York in Upper Canada was incorporated as Toronto.

In 1836, the Alamo in San Antonio fell to Mexican forces after a 13-day siege.

In 1853, Verdi's opera "La Traviata" premiered in Venice, Italy.

In 1933, a nationwide bank holiday declared by President Roosevelt went into effect.

In 1935, retired Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr. died in Washington.

In 1944, U.S. heavy bombers staged the first full-scale American raid

'Common sense is not so common.'

Voltaire
French author and philosopher (1694-1778)

on Berlin during World War II.

In 1957, the former British African colonies of the Gold Coast and Togoland became the independent state of Ghana.

In 1967, the daughter of Josef Stalin, Svetlana Alliluyeva, appeared at the U.S. Embassy in India and announced her intention to defect to the West.

In 1981, Walter Cronkite signed off for the last time as principal anchorman of "The CBS Evening News."

In 1987, 193 people died when the British ferry Herald of Free Enterprise capsized off the Belgian port of Zeebrugge.

Ten years ago: A gunman stole a \$1 million Picasso portrait ("Tete de Femme") from a London gallery. (The painting was recovered and two suspects arrested a week later.) Britain's Queen Elizabeth II launched the first official royal Web site. China introduced new laws to bolster its campaigns against dissent, ethnic separatism and subversive Western ideals.

Five years ago: Independent Counsel Robert Ray issued his final report in which he wrote that former President Clinton could have been indicted and probably would have been convicted in the scandal involving former White House intern Monica Lewinsky. Federal regulators approved the proposed \$22 billion merger of Hewlett-Packard Co. and Compaq Computer Corp.

One year ago: South Dakota Gov. Mike Rounds signed legislation banning most abortions in his state (abortion-rights groups were able to get enough signatures to put the measure to a vote, and the ban was rejected in the November election).



Democracy vs. liberty: You can't have both

Does democracy really deserve the praise it receives? According to Webster's Dictionary, democracy is defined as "government by the people; especially: rule of the majority." What's so great about majority rule? Let's look at majority rule, as a decision-making tool, and ask how many of our choices we would like settled by what a majority likes.

Would you want the kind of car that you own to be decided through a democratic process, or would you prefer purchasing any car you please? Ask that same question about decisions such as where you live, what clothes you purchase, what food you eat, what entertainment you enjoy and what wines you drink. I'm sure that if anyone suggested that these choices be subject to a democratic process, you'd deem it

tyranny. I'm not alone in seeing democracy as a variant of tyranny. James Madison, the father of our Constitution, said that in a pure democracy, "there is nothing to check the inducement to sacrifice the weaker party or the obnoxious individual."

At the 1787 Constitutional Convention, Edmund Randolph said, "... that in tracing these evils to their origin every man had found it in the turbulence and follies of democracy."

John Adams said, "Remember, democracy never lasts long. It soon wastes, exhausts, and murders itself. There was never a democracy yet that did not

commit suicide."

Chief Justice John Marshall observed, "Between a balanced republic and a democracy, the difference is like that between order and chaos."

Our founders intended for us to have a limited republican form of government where rights precede government and there is rule of law. Citizens, as well as government officials, are accountable to the same laws. Government intervenes in civil society only to protect its citizens against force and fraud but does not intervene in the cases of peaceable, voluntary exchange. By contrast, in a democracy, the majority rules either directly



Walter Williams
Columnist

or through its elected representatives. The law is whatever the government deems it to be. Rights may be granted or taken away.

Clearly, we need government, and that means there must be collective decision-making. Alert to the dangers of majority rule, the Constitution's framers inserted several anti-majority rules. In order to amend the Constitution, it requires a two-thirds vote of both Houses, or two-thirds of state legislatures, to propose an amendment, and requires three-fourths of state legislatures for ratification. Election of the president is not done by a majority popular vote but by the Electoral College.

Part of the reason for having two houses of Congress is that it places an obstacle to majority rule. Fifty-one sen-

See WILLIAMS, Page 10

Texas Thoughts

By The Associated Press

A sample of editorial opinion around Texas:

Feb. 25

Houston Chronicle on bilingual teachers in Texas classrooms:

It's one of the sadder paradoxes of public school history. Years back, when superbly qualified black and women found most professional doors slammed in their faces, many turned to teaching, where they enriched the lives and dreams of children lucky enough to learn from them.

Now Texas children will benefit from highly qualified teachers who lack opportunity in their home country, Mexico. The most recent recruiting drive took place in Monterrey. Texas

recruiters flocked there, desperate to find teachers to ease the system's 711,237 students with limited English into their new society.

According to a Chronicle story by Cynthia Leonor Garza, the job fair was packed. Though the candidates were architects, physicians, engineers and architects all willing to pay their \$4,600 for alternative certification they said working in Texas schools meant a massive pay raise.

Houston schools have been recruiting such candidates for more than a decade. The early results were decidedly rocky: in the mid-1990s, HISD's alternative certification program for bilingual teachers had to be overhauled when several teachers were found to barely speak English.

Now, though, the bar is perhaps higher than it is for Americans. Foreign applicants are interviewed solely in English and need a four- or five-year university degree with a GPA of 7.5 on a scale of 10. All must have B's or above in college-level English composition, U.S. history, mathematics and science.

It goes without saying that the newcomers, like all first-time teachers, should be closely tracked. But as long as Texas schools fulfill this basic duty, their students all students are lucky to have these recruits.

In a system whose veterans rightly feel demoralized and underpaid, the foreign teachers' enthusiasm should be

See TEXAS, Page 10

THE PAMPA NEWS

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Pilot says astronaut showed no emotion Standoff

By MIKE SCHNEIDER
Associated Press Writer

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — The space shuttle pilot at the center of a bizarre love triangle that now has astronaut Lisa Nowak facing attempted kidnaping charges told detectives Nowak "seemed a little disappointed" but accepting when he told her he was dating another woman, court records released today show.

That conversation was in January. On Feb. 5, Nowak drove 900 miles from Houston to Orlando to confront the other woman.

Police say Nowak, a mother of two, donned a wig and followed Colleen Shipman from an airport terminal to her car to confront her, then pepper sprayed her through a cracked window when Shipman wouldn't unlock the door. Police who arrested Nowak and searched her car reported finding a BB-

gun, new steel mallet, knife and rubber tubing.

Nowak, 43, pleaded not guilty to attempted kidnaping and burglary with assault and was released on bond with an ankle monitoring device.

Investigation documents released late Monday and today by the Orange-Osceola State Attorney's Office discuss shed some light on the astronauts' relationships.

They include the shuttle pilot, Navy Cmdr. William Oefelein's, conversations with detectives about the romantic relationship he had had with Nowak since 2004 and how she reacted with no emotion when he said he was dating another woman.

"She seemed a little disappointed, but she seemed to be accepting of that," Oefelein told detectives, according to the documents.

The documents also include an

undated letter to Oefelein's mother in which Nowak wrote that she was taking steps to divorce her husband so she could be with Oefelein.

"Bill is absolutely the best person I've ever known and I love him more than I knew possible," Nowak wrote.

A NASA spokesman didn't immediately return a call seeking comment today.

Since her arrest, Nowak has told police that her relationship with Oefelein was more than a working relationship but less than a romantic one. But Oefelein, 41, told investigators they had been romantically involved since 2004.

Nowak's frantic road trip to confront Shipman — she wore adult diapers to avoid having to stop for breaks — may have been sparked after she uncovered steamy e-mails Shipman sent to Oefelein.

Continued from Page 1

"We checked him and the house. Apparently, he didn't shoot but had a baseball bat and hit the door with it," Burton said. "It sounded like a gunshot."

No one else was found in

the house at the time of the incident, Burton said. Robinson is not the owner of the house, and it was uncertain whether the owner had given him permission to be in the house.

Gray County sheriff's deputies also responded to the scene during the incident. No injuries were reported as a result of the event.

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Owners Ernie and Suzie Wilkinson, both Pampa natives, have been in business for 19 years. They have a BA in business and a Masters in Health Management. They both have extensive background and training in federal and state regulations, and have served on many state and national boards and committees representing Home Health.

Dedicated to meeting the needs of their individual clients, the Wilkinsons believe a successful business should give back to the community.



Suzanne Wilkinson

Zone

Continued from Page 1

while others would not.

The idea to create the zone was prompted by a proposal by CPV Wind Ventures of Massachusetts to place wind energy generators in Gray and Donley counties.

The wind energy company's targeted area is along an area east of Highway 70. Nineteen generators

would be placed in Gray County, with another 38 in Donley County.

The re-investment zone would consist of approximately 1,219.09 acres situated in Section 66, Block HD, I.D. Shaw Survey; Sections 15 and 16, Block E, D & P Survey; and Section 16, Rockwall County School Land. The zone, located on the Trew Ranch, would be named the Trew Ranch Wind Farm Re-Investment Zone.

County commissioners will likely meet again in executive session prior to their next regular meeting, March 15, in order to further discuss the

specifics of the re-investment zone, Peet said.

Donley County commissioners have also passed a resolution to establish a re-investment zone and have held a public hearing, and are currently discussing details of the tax abatements and other specifics.

"We held a public hearing with great support from our county residents," said Donley County Judge Jack Hall. "We have no agreement on abatements or any other points at this time."

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A Newspaper Activity Page for Young People

Kid Scoop.com

This Week: Helen Keller

© 2007 by Vicki Whiting, Editor Jeff Schinkel, Graphics Vol. 23 No. 11

Helen Keller



Can you imagine learning to talk if you couldn't hear? What if you couldn't see either? Imagine being unable to hear what words sound like and unable to see how people use their lips and face to make sounds.

After a childhood illness, Helen Keller could not see or hear, but she was determined to communicate. She learned to write and even to speak. Her courage and determination have inspired people for generations.

The Struggle to Communicate

Helen _____ wanted to communicate. She made up her own sign language. If she wanted her mother, she _____ her cheek. To indicate her father, she used her fingers to make the _____ of spectacles against her eyes.

Often she was _____ and frustrated. She _____ and screamed and cried.

Helen's parents took her to many doctors. They went to see Alexander Graham Bell, the inventor of the telephone. Dr. Bell, who had once _____ in a school for the deaf, _____ the Kellers find a teacher for Helen.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Read grade-level appropriate expository text.

Anne Sullivan came to Helen's house to live with her and be her teacher. Anne taught Helen the American Manual Alphabet. She formed the letters in Helen's hand so that she could feel the shapes. She gave Helen a doll, and then took her hand and spelled d-o-l-l. She gave Helen a hat and spelled h-a-t- into her hand. But for the longest time, Helen didn't understand.

Then one day, Anne and Helen walked to the water pump. Anne put Helen's hand in the water and then spelled w-a-t-e-r. Suddenly Helen understood that the letters spelled into her hand were the name of the thing she had touched.

Helen pointed at Anne, wanting to know her name. Anne spelled the name Helen would call her the rest of her life. Use the American Manual Alphabet to discover it.

Standards Link: Reading Genres: Read a variety of genres (e.g., biography).

Find where each missing word belongs.

SHAPE

DESPERATELY

TAUGHT

HELPED

KICKED

STROKED

ANGRY

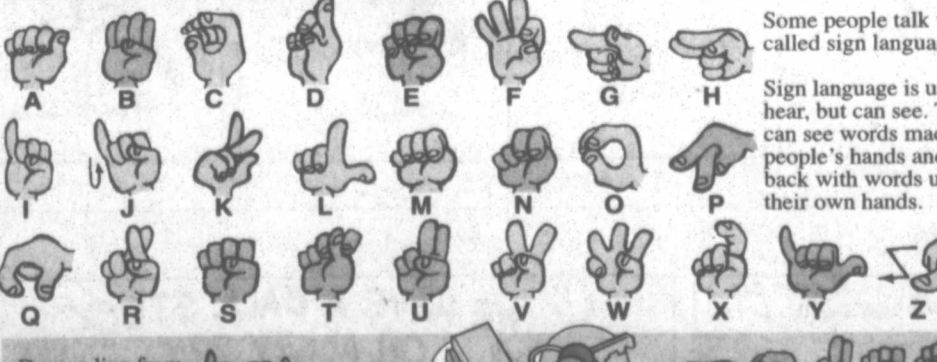
Picture This

Cut out each of the above pictures. Describe each object to a friend without showing them the picture. Can they guess what each object is based on your description of it?

American Manual Alphabet

Some people talk with their hands. This is called sign language.

Sign language is useful for people who cannot hear, but can see. They can see words made by people's hands and talk back with words using their own hands.



Extra! Extra!

Mystery Picture

Select a picture in today's newspaper and describe it to a friend with as many details as you can. See if your friend can find that picture in the newspaper.

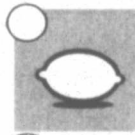
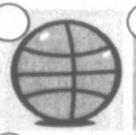



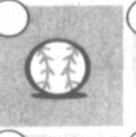


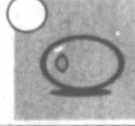

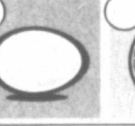

Standards Link: Listening: Uses speaking/listening strategies for different purposes.

Draw a line from each picture to the American Manual Alphabet spelling for the name of the picture.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple directions; Identify letters; read common sight words.

The Kid Scoop Puzzler

Do you have these objects around your home? Compare sizes and then number these objects from smallest to largest.

Standards Link: Science Investigation: Organize objects by one attribute.

Double Double Word Search

ALPHABET
WATER
SULLIVAN
TEACHER
BLIND
STRUGGLE
DEAF
LANGUAGE
BELL
SPELLED
CHEEK
NEVER
HAND
DOLL
FEEL

Find the words in the puzzle, then in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

H	R	E	H	C	A	E	T	N	D
B	E	L	L	O	D	E	E	N	K
L	G	G	E	N	K	V	I	A	E
E	A	G	F	E	E	L	L	V	E
L	U	D	R	B	E	D	I	H	
R	G	R	E	E	I	N	N	L	C
S	N	T	E	B	A	H	P	L	A
P	A	S	I	H	R	F	E	U	D
W	L	D	E	L	L	E	P	S	B

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skip and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

Kid Scoop Together: Try This At Home

- With a parent or learning buddy at home, look at the sports news. Find and circle ten or more numbers. Calculate the sum and the average of these numbers.
- With your buddy, select one or more of the numbers and create a math word problem using your selection. For example, if you selected the score of a baseball game (Home: 10, Visitors: 7) you could write a problem like: *Team A beat Team B by three points. Team A's score was 10. What was Team B's score?*

Proof It!

Are you an eagle-eyed reader? Read the Helen Keller quote below and circle the five errors you find. Then rewrite it correctly on the lines below the quote.

"Indeed, everthing that could hum, or buzz, or sing, or bloom, had a part in my education. Few know what joy it is to feel the roses pressing softly into the hand, or the beautiful motion of the lilies as they sway in the morning breeze. Sometimes I caught an insect in the flower I was plucking, and I felt the faint noise of a pair of wings rubbed together in a sudden terror."

FROM THE LESSON LIBRARY

Sign the News

Use the American Manual Alphabet to sign the words in a headline from today's newspaper. Can your friends figure out what you are saying?

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Write On!

A Woman I Admire

Tell about a woman that you admire and why you admire her.

Standards Link: Writing Strategies: Revise drafts.

Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: The letter from "Kay in St. Joseph, Mo." (Jan. 10) caught my attention. She's the woman whose husband (a hunter) leaves bloody footprints and pieces of deer carcass throughout their house and his soiled clothes piled in the kitchen. I am a female bow hunter. If my hunting buddies (all of whom are male) came into my house and made a mess like Kay's husband does, I would shoot THEM. There's a reason why the annual "great hunt" is always at her house. None of the other hunters' families would put up with their disrespect. I can't even imagine how hard it would be to remove week-old animal blood from a carpet. History repeats itself, and inconsiderate people don't change on their own. "Kay" needs to stand up for herself and refuse to tolerate their behavior any longer. — **J.J. IN FORT WAYNE, IND.**

DEAR J.J.: I couldn't agree more. However, because the balance of power in her family does not appear to be in her favor, I thought she'd have better luck if she let her husband wallow in the mess he and his brothers had created while she vacated the premises -- and let him get a professional cleaning crew in there if the chore was more than he could handle. That is, until I heard from more of my readers:

DEAR ABBY: I have hunted for almost 40 years and have always processed my own meat -- from squirrel to deer. Most hunters keep the work area clean so the meat won't be contaminated. I have seen a few hunters like Kay's husband, and simply put, they are lazy. Their meat is filled with hair and dirt, and could be spoiled as well. I do all my meat processing in my clean garage, then bring it down to the basement to wrap before storing it in the freezer. I hose down any blood residue, and all scraps are

thrown in the trash can as I work. Kay needs to put her foot down and kick them out of the house. — **LARRY IN BRADFORD, PA.**

DEAR ABBY: I'm not sure how intellectual those folks are, but there could be grave consequences because of their behavior. Most wild game carry a variety of bacteria, some strains of which are rumored to have infected North American deer herds with mad-cow disease. When wild game is cleaned, precautions should be taken to disinfect the animal and the work area. Some folks go so far as to field-clean an animal and wash it down with a bleach solution as soon as it's taken. Surgical gloves are worn, and when everything is done, the people cleanse themselves and their gear immediately! — **ROBERT IN NEW SMYRNA BEACH, FLA.**

DEAR ABBY: I raised five boys, who with their father loved to go fishing. I told them I'd cook and serve anything I found in the kitchen. It took only one meal of fried fish, innards and all, for them to get the message -- **VICKY IN SONORA, CALIF.**

DEAR ABBY: My son used to work in a butcher shop that processed deer every year. When the deer came in, all the other meat that was sold had to be moved out. If meat isn't handled correctly or becomes tainted and makes someone ill, Kay's husband and brothers-in-law could be in serious trouble. It may be time for her to contact the local health department. Because her husband is being paid to "process" food, I'm sure he's violating more than a few laws -- and the fines he could be subject to could cost him "dearly"! — **KEITH IN OHIO**

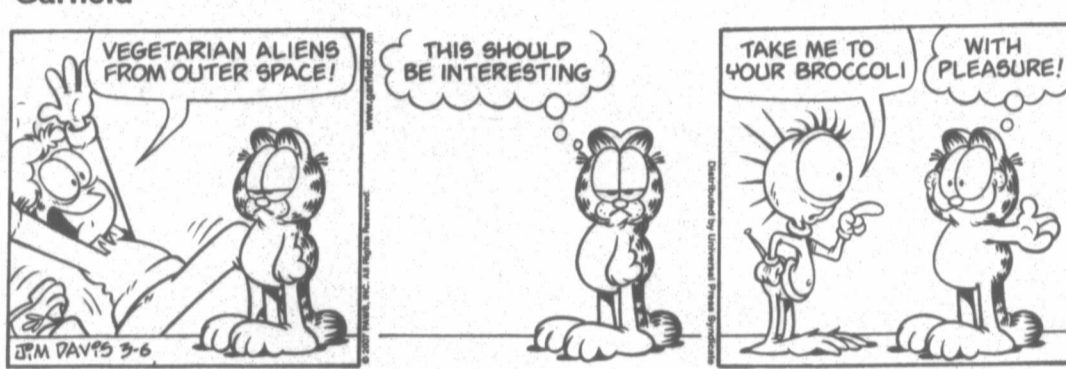
For Better Or For Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin

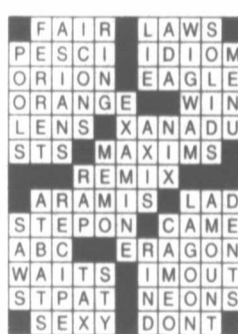


Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

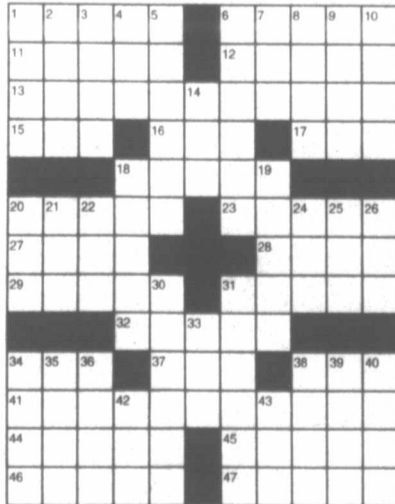
- ACROSS**
- 1 Hair symbol clusters
 - 6 Goliath's weight
 - 11 Parcel out
 - 12 Digression
 - 13 Briefly
 - 15 Fall back
 - 16 Cry from
 - 17 Tiny
 - 18 Joint type
 - 20 Forbidden
 - 23 Indian
 - 27 Anti-quoted
 - 28 Do a clerical job
 - 29 Memos
 - 31 Run, as color
 - 32 Sugar source
 - 34 Shred
 - 37 Brit's brew
 - 38 Nourished
 - 41 Unable to decide
 - 44 Take place
 - 45 Radium discoverer
 - 46 Squelched
 - 47 Bart's dad
- DOWN**
- 1 Kite part
 - 2 Arm bone
 - 3 National
 - 4 Great
 - 5 Artist's place
 - 6 Rushes
 - 7 Fire
 - 8 Observe
 - 9 Goofing
 - 10 Remove
 - 11 from copy
 - 14 Infant
 - 18 Computer
 - 19 Hunting
 - 20 Brown
 - 21 In past
 - 22 Track act
 - 24 Men's-store
 - 25 Brit's buy
 - 26 Scarlet
 - 30 God of agriculture
 - 31 Turn
 - 33 Green
 - 34 Mexican rivers
 - 35 Ancient Peruvian
 - 36 Treaty
 - 38 Horse's home
 - 39 Pennsylvania port
 - 40 Fabric worker
 - 42 Status
 - 43 Couple



Yesterday's answer

- 24 Men's-store
- 25 Brit's buy
- 26 Scarlet
- 30 God of agriculture
- 31 Turn
- 33 Green
- 34 Mexican rivers
- 35 Ancient Peruvian
- 36 Treaty
- 38 Horse's home
- 39 Pennsylvania port
- 40 Fabric worker
- 42 Status
- 43 Couple

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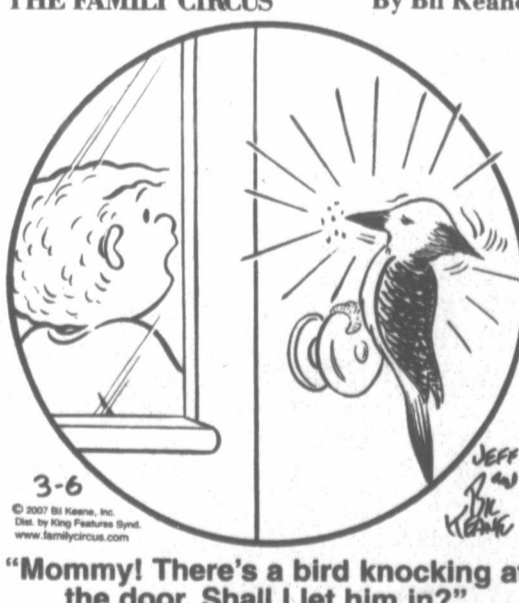


Marmaduke



The Family Circus

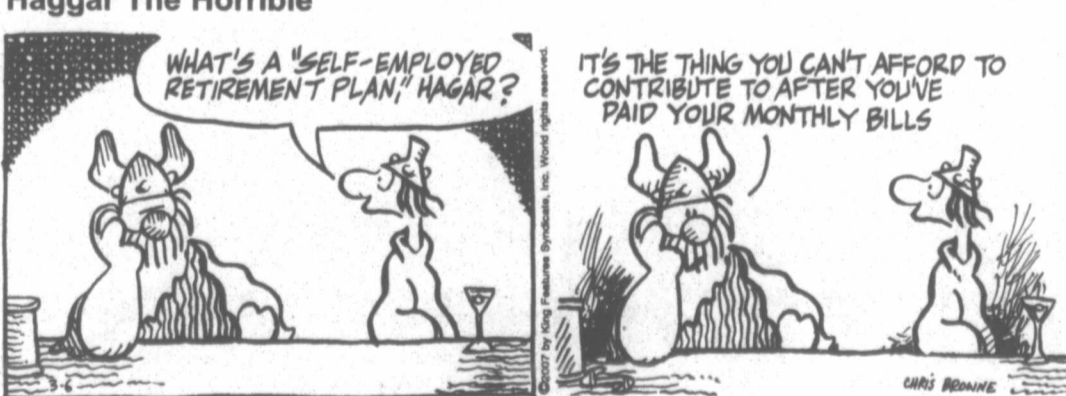
THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



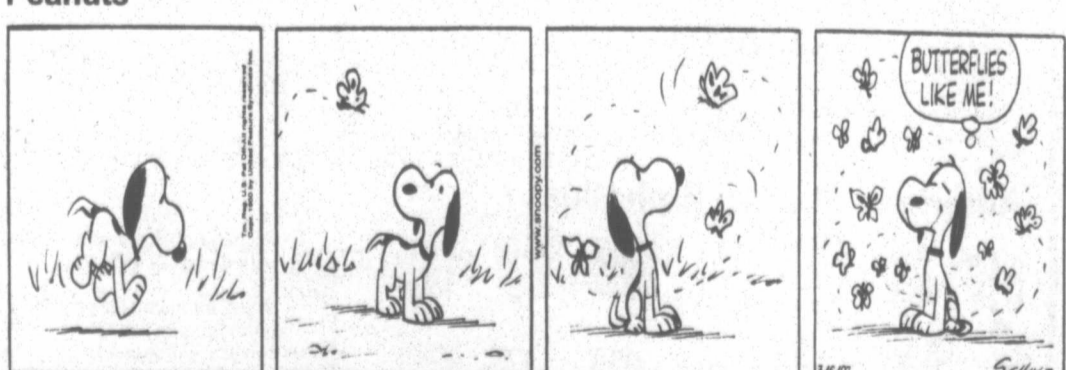
B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Flo & Friends



Sports Day



Senior Matt Jimenez leaves the competition far behind during his run of the 800 meters.

Harvester track places well at first meet

BORGER -- In their first track meet of the season, the Pampa Harvesters placed well among tough competition in Borger Saturday.

The varsity boys placed 4th with 90 points, and the JV boys placed 3rd with 88 points.

The JV girls placed 4th with 80 points.

Results for the meet are as follows:

Varsity Boys:

Long jump - Shavious Kelly - 1st, Jerrod Bivens - 2nd
 800 - Matt Jimenez - 1st
 100 - Chase Harris - 3rd
 4 x 200 - Shavious Kelly, Payton Reagan, Michael Robinson, Chase Harris - 2nd
 300 Hurdles - Michael Furnuik - 3rd
 200 - Shavious Kelly - 1st

4 x 400 - Payton Reagan, Michael Furnuik, William Rivera, Matt Jimenez - 5th

JV Boys:

Triple - Darrell Willis - 4th
 High - Travis Hagerman - 2nd
 4 x 100 - Ryne Malone, Darrell Willis, Ryan Jimenez, Sergio Salazar - 2nd
 800 - Jarrett Towles - 4th, Leonel Madrid - 6th
 100 - Ryne Malone - 2nd, Josh Humphrey - 3rd
 4 x 200 - Ryne Malone, Darrell Willis, Sergio Salazar, Travis Hagerman - 1st
 400 - Eric Ramirez - 5th
 200 - Darrell Willis - 2nd
 4 x 400 - Jarrett Towles, Uriel Diaz, Travis Hagerman, Sergio Salazar - 2nd

Varsity Girls:

800 - Natalie Knowles - 6th
 400 - Natalie Knowles - 4th
 Long Jump - Britteni Rice - 5th
 Shot Put - Sara Foster - 5th

JV Girls:

Long Jump - Amber Brown - 2nd
 Triple - Kayla Ware - 5th
 4 x 100 - Amber Brown, Kim Curtis, Trisha Moore, Natalie Parker - 3rd
 100 Hurdles - Diana Mechelay - 1st
 100 - Natalie Parker - 1st, Amber Brown - 2nd
 4 x 200 - Amber Brown, Kim Curtis, Trisha Moore, Natalie Parker - 3rd
 300 Hurdles - Diana Mechelay - 2nd
 400 - Kayla Ware - 4th

Yao Ming can't help Rockets beat Cleveland

CLEVELAND (AP) — LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers made Yao Ming feel like he was back in high school.

Yao struggled in his first game after missing more than two months with a leg injury and the Cavaliers held off the Houston Rockets 91-85 Monday night, led by James' 32 points, 12 rebounds and eight assists.

Yao sat at his locker with a bag of ice on his right knee after the game. He finished with 16 points, 11 rebounds, and two blocks.

The 7-foot-6 center had just one practice since recovering from a broken bone under his knee. It showed.

"In the second quarter,

third quarter, I was almost like a high school player," Yao said. "Sometimes, Cleveland would just steal the ball from my hand."

Yao airballed a left hook on the Rockets' first possession, but immediately got in the Cavaliers' way on the other end by blocking a shot.

Wearing a black brace on his right knee, Yao looked slow and out of synch on offense, letting a crisp pass tip off his hands.

"Uneven, which is to be expected," Rockets coach Jeff Van Gundy said. "But he's got to cut down on his turnovers. We can't play well if he goes right back to what he was doing before he got hurt, which is being a high

turnover guy. It's impossible to have offensive rhythm."

James, whose popularity in China helped him top Yao in All-Star voting this year, scored more than 30 points for the fourth straight game. The Cavaliers have won three of those four.

James got help from Larry Hughes, who had been struggling until recently and is finally starting to complement the superstar as the Cavaliers envisioned.

Hughes had 22 points, seven assists and six rebounds and said this is the most comfortable he's felt since joining the Cavaliers as a free agent last season.

With rookie Daniel Gibson out with a sprained

toe, Hughes played some point guard, which he said he'd like to do more often.

"I'm able to create," he said. "I'm able to get everybody involved, feel the flow of the game, know what plays we can run."

James wouldn't mind seeing that as well.

"If he keeps playing the way he is playing now, we might have to keep him in there," James said.

Yao, who played 27 minutes, helped spark the Rockets in the fourth quarter after they trailed by 14.

He scored seven straight points and provided a presence inside that forced Cleveland to take outside shots.

Twice is nice for varsity baseball

By **JORDAN REAGAN**
Sports Editor

The Pampa Harvester varsity baseball team traveled to Woodward this weekend to do what they do best - not giving the competition a single chance.

In the first game against Woodward, Brett Ferrell started as pitcher, and in three innings he had six strikeouts, one hit and gave up two runs.

Following suit, Brett Powell took the mound in the 4th and 5th innings, giving up one run on three hits and had one strikeout, and Blake Sieck took control in the 6th and 7th innings, throwing five strikeouts and giving up no hits or runs.

Ryan Funderburg and Ferrell batted in two runs

each to help the team in their 10-4 victory over Woodward.

Dakota Gowin started as pitcher in the second game against Woodward, throwing two strikeouts and giving up two hits, and Colden Fortenberry followed in the 3rd inning with two strikeouts, no hits and no runs.

Bradley Johnson wrapped up the game in the 4th inning, allowing one hit and throwing two strikeouts.

Brady Eakin led the team offensively with one run and three runs batted in, and Robbie Dixon with one run and one run batted in.

With a current record of 6-0, the Harvesters will travel to take on Canyon at 5:30 tonight.

Spurs' winning streak now at 9

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The San Antonio Spurs extended their season-high winning streak to nine games when Manu Ginobili scored 16 points and Tim Duncan had 12 rebounds in an 88-74 victory over the Los Angeles Clippers on Monday night.

Ginobili had eight rebounds and Duncan scored nine points, just two after the first quarter. But Beno Udrih added 16 points and eight rebounds for the Spurs, whose reserves outscored their starters 49-39.

Michael Finley had 10 points for the Spurs, who led all the way in their third one-sided win over the Clippers in as many meetings this season.

San Antonio's defense, the key to its victory string, again was stifling. The Clippers' 74 points equaled their lowest score of the season.

The Spurs won handily even without guard Tony Parker. Their second-leading scorer with an 18.7 average, Parker missed his second consecutive game because of a strained left hip.

San Antonio's victory was its 12th in the last 13 games against the Clippers, including win-

ning the first two meetings this season by 29 and 22 points.

Corey Maggette led the Clippers with 19 points, and Elton Brand had 15 points and eight rebounds. Tim Thomas had 10 points for Los Angeles.

The Clippers earlier in the day released guard Will Conroy and signed guard Jason Hart, who had nine points and four rebounds in 25 minutes against San Antonio.

Los Angeles recently lost guard Shaun Livingston for the season with a severe knee injury, and guard Sam Cassell missed his third straight game with a strained right groin.

Clippers swingman Quinton Ross left with a hip pointer in the third quarter and did not return.

San Antonio led 64-49 heading into the final quarter, and the Clippers never threatened. The Spurs were up 43-34 at halftime.

Brent Barry had seven points in the second quarter, including a 3-pointer with 1:02 remaining to give the Spurs their nine-point lead.

San Antonio jumped to a 13-4 lead and was up 22-16 at the end of the first quarter.

Optimist Club has great turnout for tryouts

Turnout was heavy as 109 players signed up for Pampa Optimist Baseball/ Softball 2007 on Monday, the first day of registration. Boys and girls from 5 to 15 years of age are eligible to play this season.

Registration will continue today through Thursday from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the Optimist Club. All players need to register. Playing fees are \$40 for T-ball and pitching machine leagues, \$60 for Babe Ruth Baseball and \$50 for all other leagues.

Scholarships are available.

"We need about 150 volunteers to coach and manage," said Kevin Davis, Optimist Baseball Commissioner.

"We have had several parents volunteer when they signed up their kids." Leading the sign-ups with 32 players was the T-ball League for boys and girls ages 5 and 6, according to Shane Stokes, who is assisting with registration.

"We had 25 girls sign up for softball, 19 boys for the 7-8 pitching machine league, 14 for the 9-10 Cal Ripken League, 10 for the 11-12 Cal Ripken League and nine for the Babe Ruth League," Stokes said.

Last year more than 700 players competed on 57 teams.

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

Jones goes to Jets for swap of draft picks

By **BARRY WILNER**
AP Football Writer

Thomas Jones and Travis Henry, two of the NFL's better running backs, are headed to new homes.

Jones, who helped the Chicago Bears make the Super Bowl last season, was traded to the New York Jets on Monday. Chicago will get a second-round pick, 37th overall, from New York, and also sends its second-round pick, No. 63, to the Jets.

Henry, cut by Tennessee last week, landed in Denver, where the Broncos' system has developed a steady stream of 1,000-yard rushers.

Another prime free agent, defensive tackle Patrick Kerney, left Atlanta for Seattle and a six-year deal worth \$39.5 million, including \$19.5 million in guaranteed money.

Although the Jets uncovered a flashy contributor to their backfield in rookie Leon Washington last sea-

son, they were eager to find a No. 1 back. Jones must pass a physical and rework a contract that has one year to go before the trade is completed, a person familiar with the trade told The Associated Press.

Jones rushed for 1,210 yards and six touchdowns and had a big postseason for Chicago. The Jets have been looking for a top runner since Curtis Martin was sidelined a year ago by knee problems. Martin is expected to retire.

Henry, formerly with the Bills, then the Titans, agreed to terms with Denver, which has gotten big seasons out of Terrell Davis, Olandis Gary, Mike Anderson, Reuben Droughns and others in the current offensive scheme.

Henry rushed for 1,211 yards and a 4.5 average last season for the Titans, but was released after they could not agree on restructuring a contract that called for an \$8.3 million bonus. He will

get \$12 million in guaranteed bonuses from the Broncos, according to someone familiar with the deal who requested anonymity because it had not yet been signed.

Kerney's agent, Richard

'Sometimes expectations can be unrealistic. I'm excited to know that something new is coming up.'

— **Leonard Davis**
Dallas Cowboys

Rosa, said the 30-year-old veteran agreed to a deal with Seattle worth \$39.5 million, including \$19.5 million in guaranteed money.

Kerney spent his entire career with the Falcons, but was limited to just nine

games last season with a torn right pectoral muscle. He voided the final two years of his contract and became one of the most lucrative commodities on the free-agent market.

He ranks third on the Falcons' career list with 58 sacks.

The Cowboys had a busy day. Tackle Leonard Davis was introduced in Dallas after signing for \$18.75 million in guaranteed money as part of a \$50 million, seven-year deal. Davis, who played at Texas, was the second overall pick in the 2001 draft by the Cardinals, but never lived up to expectations.

"Sometimes expectations can be unrealistic," said Davis, who said he was happy to be returning to his home state. "I'm excited just to know that something new is coming up. It will be a challenge, but I'm all about

See NFL, Page 8

U.S. Embassy in Nairobi warns of terror threat targeting world cross-country championships

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — The U.S. Embassy said today it has been alerted to a possible terrorist threat against this month's world cross-country championships in Kenya.

The embassy released a statement saying the threat was coming from "alleged extremist elements." Last month, the U.S. Embassy issued another strong warning to Americans considering a visit to Kenya, saying

violent crime was increasing and that Kenyan authorities have limited capacity to prevent it.

"The U.S. Embassy is also aware of public statements by leaders of Kenya's Coastal Muslim community threatening to disrupt, through unspecified means, the World Cross Country Championship if the government of Kenya does not satisfy various demands," the latest statement said.

The IAAF World Cross Country Championships are scheduled for March 24 in the coastal city of Mombasa. Athletes from 66 countries are expected to compete in the races, which are being held in Kenya for the first time.

Embassy spokeswoman Jennifer Barnes declined comment on the warning, and a spokesman for the IAAF did not immediately return a call for comment.

Muslim leaders in Mombasa in recent weeks have threatened to disrupt the international championships unless the government releases Kenyans held on suspicion of engaging in terrorism and those detained in Somalia and Ethiopia. The protests were led by Sheik Mohamed Dor, secretary-general of the Council of Imams and Preachers of Kenya.

Dor said his group will

disrupt the races unless the detainees are released, but that there will be no violence.

"We are going to have a very, very big demonstration to disrupt the cross country," he told The Associated Press Tuesday. "Every international media would be in Mombasa, so we want to show the world that Kenyan Muslims are marginalized."

Kenya has been the victim of terrorism in the past. In

1998, terrorists bombed the U.S. embassies in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, which killed 225 people. Kenya was also the site of a car bomb at a beach resort and the near simultaneous attempt to shoot down an Israeli airliner in 2002. Ten Kenyans and three Israelis were killed in the blast at the hotel, 12 miles north of Mombasa. The missiles missed the airliner.

Tight-knit Mennonite community comforts bus crash survivors

BLUFFTON, Ohio (AP) — Though small in numbers, Mennonites are taught to put their faith into action. So when a bus crashed carrying baseball players from Mennonite-affiliated Bluffton University, church members offered their prayers and their homes.

Two churches flooded the university in northern Ohio with calls in the hours after Friday's accident, offering to house the players' families, bring them food and drive them wherever needed.

"The Mennonite faith stresses living according to the teaching of Jesus Christ and serving others," said James Rissler, pastor of the Atlanta Mennonite Fellowship. "When we hear of needs, we want to respond."

Most of the offers weren't needed since a hotel put up the families for free near the hospitals, said Rissler, who met with families over the weekend and helped with a prayer service at the hotel.

Others outside the church showed their generosity too, including families from a youth baseball league who brought clothes for the players. Their luggage had been soaked by diesel fuel.

Those gestures helped carry the players and their relatives through the despair of losing four players, the bus driver and his wife.

"It allowed us to worry about the more important things," said Brandon Freytag, a pitcher who was not seriously injured. "It allowed us to grieve and be with our families."

Bluffton President James Harder said they were deeply indebted. "We saw the

hand of God through the people in that community," Harder said.

Six people from the team remain in Atlanta hospitals, including two in critical condition.

Most of the players who walked away with bruises and broken bones returned home over the weekend. Airlines arranged for free flights and brought back the dead.

About 250 of the school's 1,200 students are Mennonite. The university is one of just five colleges affiliated with the Mennonite Church USA.

The church teaches pacifism and simple living. But unlike more conservative Mennonite denominations, members wear modern clothing and use electricity. Smoking and drinking are banned on campus.

There are 110,000 members with some of the largest numbers in Pennsylvania and Ohio.

Mennonites also are known for their relief agencies that respond to natural disasters nationwide.

"For Mennonites, community is an expression of faith," said Ronald Guengerich, senior pastor at Zion Mennonite in Archbold. "Caring for each other and bearing each others burdens is a core value that we have."

David Betts, a Bluffton sophomore who attended the Archbold church, was among the players killed in the accident.

Investigators said the bus driver apparently mistook an exit ramp for a regular lane, and the bus crashed into a barrier at an intersection and plummeted off the overpass onto Interstate 75.

Piniella looking for more from Cubs

By The Associated Press

Lou Piniella won't stand for sloppiness — even in spring training.

It took only four exhibition games (all losses) for the Chicago Cubs' new manager to call a team meeting Monday morning and demand improvement from his players.

"We got into it a bit," Piniella said.

Then, oft-injured pitcher Mark Prior got hit hard in his 2007 debut. But Kerry Wood and Ted Lilly pitched well in a 6-5 win over the Seattle Mariners.

"We've got some work to do. This is not some push-button operation," Piniella

said, chuckling. "I'm starting to figure that out."

"(The meeting) was positive — but we want some things done here. We want to see things done the right way, so we can get ready," said Piniella, who replaced Dusty Baker on the bench.

Prior, who missed most of 2006 during a third consecutive season of injuries, started for the first time since August. He allowed three earned runs and got just four outs in Peoria, Ariz.

"I just wasn't finishing my pitches," Prior said. "The most important thing for me is this is the first time in almost 2 1/2 years I wasn't more worried about my arm than facing batters."

Throwing 95 mph fastballs and sharp sliders, Wood retired the Mariners in order in the fifth.

"After I saw him throw the first five or six pitches I said, 'I had a good day already,'" Piniella said, smiling.

Lilly, Chicago's \$40 million free-agent acquisition, pitched two scoreless innings.

"Kind of hit-and-miss," he said. "I got away with a couple of pitches."

At Fort Myers, Fla., Boston left-hander Jon Lester retired the three batters he faced on eight pitches in the first inning of a "B" game against the Minnesota Twins.

Rangers beat Islanders in shootout

NEW YORK (AP) — Rick DiPietro was too busy stopping shots to count them.

He knew there were a lot and he knew he couldn't rest. "I don't pay attention to it," he said. "You try to keep your focus on making the next save."

DiPietro stopped an Islanders-record 56 shots, but came up one shy in the shootout and took a hard-luck 2-1 loss to the Rangers on Monday night in the New York-New York matchup that was the only game on

the NHL schedule.

The 25-year-old DiPietro, in the first season of a 15-year, \$67.5 million deal with the Islanders, was brilliant in making his career-high 15th straight start. He turned aside 17 shots in the first period, 19 more in the second, and 18 in the third — his only blemish in regulation was a rebound goal by Petr Prucha in the opening minute of that frame.

Matt Cullen scored the only goal in the shootout. That was enough to beat DiPietro in a game that had

playoff implications and a postseason atmosphere.

"He was the best player on the ice," Islanders coach Ted Nolan said. "He's the reason we got one point."

As far as the Rangers and Islanders are concerned, the playoffs have already begun.

The Rangers' second straight shootout victory lifted them into a 10th-place tie in the Eastern Conference, two places and two points behind Carolina and the playoff cutoff. The seventh-place Islanders are three points ahead of Carolina.

NFL

Continued from Page 7

challenges."

Brad Johnson left Minnesota to sign a three-year deal with Dallas, according to Johnson's agent, Phil Williams. The 38-year-old Johnson became an unrestricted free agent last week when the Vikings released the 15-year veteran. Johnson won a Super Bowl with Tampa Bay after the 2002 season.

Dallas also re-signed placekicker Martin Gramatica.

In other moves:

—Miami released tight end Randy McMichael and quarterback Joey Harrington, who was due a \$1 million roster bonus. In his only season with Miami,

Harrington went 5-6 as a starter filling in for Daunte Culpepper, then was benched for the final game in favor of Cleo Lemon.

McMichael was due a \$3 million roster bonus, and his contract was terminated after Miami was unable to swing a trade for him.

A starter since his rookie season in 2002, McMichael is the Dolphins' career leader among tight ends with 283 catches for 3,096 yards. He had at least 60 receptions each of the past three years.

"Apparently this was an economic decision," agent Drew Rosenhaus said. "He was surprised, but he's looking forward to a great opportunity elsewhere."

Miami signed tight end David Martin to a three-year contract. Martin had 87 receptions for 766 yards and

nine touchdowns in six seasons with Green Bay.

The Dolphins also dealt receiver Wes Welker to the Patriots for their second- and seventh-round draft picks in April. New England's second-round pick is No. 60 overall.

The 5-foot-9, 195-pound Welker started just two games for Miami last season, but led the team in receptions with 67 for 687 yards. He also has been the team's primary punt and kickoff returner.

—San Francisco signed wide receiver Ashley Lelie, who had a disappointing 2006 season in Atlanta. He was the fourth free agent signed by the 49ers, who made the first and biggest splash of free agency by paying cornerback Nate Clements \$80 million over eight years on Friday.

—Center Al Johnson, who lost his job with the Cowboys to Andre Gurode, joined Arizona with a four-year deal.

—DE Kevin Carter joined Tampa Bay. Carter is fourth among active players with 97 1/2 career sacks and has not missed a game in 12 seasons with the Titans, Rams and Dolphins, who released him last week. Signing an experienced pass rusher became a priority over the weekend when the Bucs lost free-agent end Dewayne White to the Lions.

—Tennessee re-signed 12-year veteran Kerry Collins to back up second-year quarterback Vince Young. Collins began last season as the Titans' starter but was benched for Young after three games.

—Indianapolis re-signed 32-year-old linebacker Rob

Morris, a former starting middle linebacker who became a starter on the outside and helped solidify the Colts' defense en route to their Super Bowl victory.

—The Texans re-signed cornerback Roc Alexander, defensive end N.D. Kalu and offensive tackle Ephraim Salaam, all free agents.

—Seattle added depth on offense, re-signing reserve tight end Will Heller and backup fullback Josh Parry.

—Detroit re-signed journeyman defensive end Corey Smith, a former Buccaneer and 49er who had the best game of his short career in the final game of last season. Smith, who signed with the Lions in November, made the first start of his career in Dallas, where he had a sack and forced a fumble.

Artest arrested, excused from team

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Sacramento Kings forward Ron Artest was arrested and excused indefinitely from the team after a woman said he shoved her to the floor inside his home and prevented her from calling 911.

Placer County sheriff's authorities said the woman reported she and Artest were arguing inside the home when he pushed her. The argument moved outside when Artest tried to leave in his Hummer, sheriff's Sgt. Andrew Scott said during a news conference.

Deputies arrived around 9:30 a.m. at Artest's five-acre estate in the Sacramento suburb of Loomis and arrested him on suspicion of domestic violence.

Moreno may be first owner to understand steroids mess

By TIM DAHLBERG
AP Sports Columnist

Unlike most baseball owners, Arte Moreno has shown he knows a little something about public relations. He also seems to understand that perception is often just as important as reality.

That's why one of the first things he did when he bought the Angels a few years ago was lower the price of beer at the ballpark. Fans, he said, got irritated

paying \$8.50 for a bottle of beer they could get at a nearby convenience store for a buck-fifty.

Moreno also figured out that there was a lot more money to be made by claiming Los Angeles to be the home of the Angels. They may play in Anaheim, but now the perception is they're connected to a much more important city.

So it's not a big surprise that Moreno might be the first owner in any sport who

finally gets it when it comes to players suspected of improving themselves through the use of modern chemistry.

The epiphany comes at a price: Moreno spent \$50 million to sign Gary Matthews Jr. a few months ago, confident that he would be the Angels' center fielder for the next five years.

That was after Matthews, a career .249 hitter, came out of nowhere last year to post career highs in batting average (.313), home runs (19) and RBIs (79).

Which, of course, was before agents raided an Alabama pharmacy and reportedly found out that Matthews was a customer there and, according to a report in SI.com, was sent a shipment of human growth hormone in 2004.

Matthews has yet to be charged with anything, and

may never be charged with anything. Investigators say they are concentrating on the suppliers of performance-enhancing drugs in the probe, not possible users.

And it should be noted that baseball had not yet banned HGH at the time Matthews allegedly bought the substance.

But perception is often reality, and Moreno knows that as well as anyone. And in family friendly Anaheim, just down the street from squeaky-clean Disneyland, the reality is the Angels need a new center fielder linked to a drug scandal about as much as Pinocchio needs a longer nose.

Enter Moreno, who, unlike other owners, seems intent on doing something about it.

On Saturday, he issued a statement saying he was disappointed by Matthews

being linked to the probe. In the same statement, he urged the outfielder to answer all questions and come clean about any involvement he might have.

At the same time Moreno was urging his \$50 million man to clear the air, Matthews was in the midst of hiring a criminal defense lawyer who promptly told him to shut up.

Not exactly the way to please your new boss.

"It's going to be resolved by opening day, one way or the other. I promise you that," Moreno told the Los Angeles Times in Monday's edition. "I'm not a very happy guy. It should have already been resolved."

Just what Moreno meant by saying he wanted it resolved one way or another isn't exactly clear. His options will be limited, and likely don't include the pos-

sibility of terminating a contract for wrongdoing.

But what seems clear is that for the first time an owner has stepped up and challenged a player to stop hiding behind lawyers and tell the truth.

Peter Magowan didn't do it in San Francisco, even after Barry Bonds admitted to a grand jury that he might have inadvertently used something called the cream and the clear when he was hitting all his home runs. He didn't do it after Bonds reportedly tested positive for amphetamines last season, then tried to throw a teammate under the bus to protect himself.

Instead, Magowan offered Bonds a new \$15.8 million contract, then wrote Giants season ticket holders a letter saying Bonds isn't really as bad as people make him out to be.

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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.

• **The next Cowboy Poetry breakfast** will be at 8 a.m. Saturday at the Big Texan in Amarillo.

• **The deadline to enter New Jersey Rainbow Poets** religious poetry contest is Saturday. To enter, send one poem of 21 lines or less to Free Poetry Contest, 103 N. Wood Ave., #70, Linden, NJ 07036 or enter online at www.rainbow-poets.com.

• **The Comprehensive Breast Center** of the Don and Sybil Harrington Cancer Center has announced the following upcoming breast cancer screening clinic: March 27, Shepard's Crook Nursing Agency, 916 N. Crest; and Monday, Lefors Civic Center in Lefors. Participants will receive a low-cost self-exam mammogram and a breast health appraisal along with individual instruction by a registered nurse in breast self-examination. Funding is available through the Texas Department of Health for Texas residents who qualify for assistance. All exams are by appointment only. For more information, call (806)

356-1905 or 1-800-377-4673.

• **Pampa Book Club** will have scheduled to discuss the following books: "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.

• **Carson County Square House Museum** in Panhandle will host a reception between 2:30-4 p.m. March 18 for artists Georgetta Tempel and Mary Lynn Pruett. Deborah Summers, author of "The Canadian River: A Visual Journey," will also be on hand to sign copies of her book. An exhibit with Tempel and Pruett is currently on display in the museum's Hazlewood Gallery. The reception was initially scheduled in January but was canceled due to inclement weather. For more information, call (806) 537-3524.

• **Pampa Community Concert Association** Presents "Live On Stage" has released its current concert schedule. The next scheduled show will be with Bronn and Katherine Journey, harpist and vocalist, at 7:30 p.m., March 19 at M.K. Brown Auditorium. Membership fees are \$30 for adults, \$70 for families; and \$15 for students. For more information, call 665-0343 or 665-2631.



'Space Mice'

COURTESY PHOTOS

▲ A group of space mice recently invaded Austin Elementary School when first grade students presented "The Mice from Outer Space." The audience was entertained by the space mice, some Earth mice, and a group of bad cats who were hungry for dinner. Above: Ali Dancer played a cat and Makenna Henderson was Baby Mouse in "Space Mice."



▲ When two of Austin Elementary's space mice rescued Baby Mouse from the ever hungry cats, a valuable lesson in friendship was learned by all. Above: (back row, from left) Evan Read, Destiny Peet, Bradey Porter, Ashton Alexander, Adam Rodriguez, Mateo Mosqueda; (middle row, l-r) Brianna Pickett, Nathan Ferguson, Alex Loving, Jordan Parsons, Aspen Sullivan; (front row, l-r) Destany Young, Brandee Mabry and Avery Smith.

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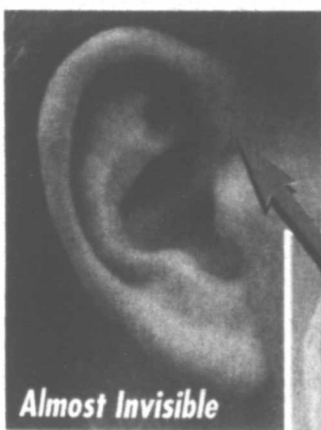
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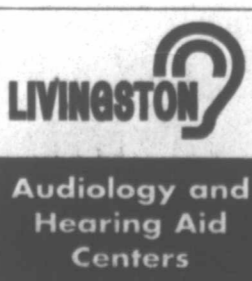
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Powers

Continued from Page 4

driver's license to prove my address. He let me go on into town, and I headed to our house.

I found our two dogs safe and sound, although still a little nervous, in their doghouse in our back yard. There was also debris such as bits of paper, insulation and plastic bags in yards around the neighborhood, in the northeast part of town.

I managed to get in touch with my husband and mother and learned that everyone was unharmed by the storm. Mother's house also escaped damage, although she lived closer to the strike zone than my husband and I.

Tornadoes aren't the only severe weather we have to contend with in this part of the country. Flash floods are a real danger as well. My husband and I lived in Canyon in the 1970s when a flash flood there caused extensive property damage and took one life.

Other local dangers which can cause damage, injury and even death are lightning, high winds and hail.

Do you know what to do in the event of severe weather? Here are a couple of helpful Web sites that give useful information on the subject:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/brochures/ttl.pdf>

<http://www.weather.gov/om/severeweather/index.shtml>

Take all precautions to keep you and your loved ones safe when severe weather strikes. You may not get a second chance to do so.

Williams

Continued from Page 4

ators can block the wishes of 435 representatives and 49 senators. The Constitution gives the president a veto to thwart the power of 535 members of Congress. It takes two-thirds of both houses of Congress to override the president's veto.

In Federalist Paper No. 10, James Madison wrote, "Measures are too often

decided, not according to the rules of justice and the rights of the minor party, but by the superior force of an interested and overbearing majority."

That's another way of saying that one of the primary dangers of majority rule is that it confers an aura of legitimacy and respectability on acts that would otherwise be deemed tyrannical. Liberty and democracy are not synonymous and could actually be opposites.

—Dr. Williams serves on the faculty of George Mason University as John M. Olin Distinguished Professor of Economics.

Texas

Continued from Page 4

infectious. For Latinos, many of whom come from struggling immigrant families, the confident, skilled role models could electrify their own expectations.

Equally important, the teachers themselves feel a mission to help these youngsters succeed. Having gotten here thanks to English fluency, the recruits can persuasively convey the need for English. Last year's national Bilingual Teacher of

the Year, who teaches in Alief, is a Mexican recruit.

Even if the teachers' English fluency is assured, students will still need a workable strategy to get them up to speed in English as well as their academic subjects. Recent studies suggest that a dual language regimen one that gradually varies proportions of English to Spanish instruction over the years achieves these goals best.

This, though, is for school districts to decide. For officials and students, the infusion of skilled, motivated recruits offers a tool for success.