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Morris tells commission he would like city manager's job permanently

by David Bowser
dbowser@thepampanews.com
It's not his first time at the rodeo, but he's already told the city commission that he likes the job permanently.

Richard Morris was named the interim city manager on Dec. 9, after City Manager Trevlyn Pitner notified the city he was leaving to take a job in the private sector.

Morris took over the reins of the city Friday, Dec. 12, but it's not the first time. He filled in as interim city manager several times as one would leave and before another could be hired. Most recently, he served as interim city manager for about a month when then City Manager John Horst had open heart surgery.

"I'm excited to be interim city manager," Morris said.

He said he expects to hold the job for two to

three months, but he said he's also indicated that he would like to be considered for the city manager's position on a more permanent basis.

"I have made known to the city commission that I would like to visit with them about that prospect," Morris said.

Born in 1946, Morris grew up in Quanah. He went to Cisco Junior College before moving on to Texas Tech where he earned a degree in civil engineering.

In 1972, he moved to Pampa where he went to work for Merriman and Barber Consulting Engineers.

"I came to work for the city in 1991 as city engineer," Morris said.

In his professional career, Morris said he's only had two jobs — one with Merriman and Barber and one with the City of Pampa.

In this day and age, he

admitted that is very unusual.

But it gives him special insight into some of the issues facing Pampa.

"Right now," Morris said, "the City of Pampa

is facing the same thing that cities both large and small over the entire nation are facing."

That is infrastructure problems, aging streets, water mains and sewer

lines. "The infrastructure has not been maintained," Morris said. "You see

See Morris, Page 8



staff photo by David Bowser

Interim City Manager Richard Morris has indicated he would like to be Pampa's next city manager.

Grand jury indicts 26

by Rachel Stennett
rstennett@thepampanews.com

A Gray County grand jury handed up 26 indictments Friday, Dec. 12, in the 223rd Judicial District Court.

Ashleigh Shaude Young, 19, was indicted for evading arrest. Bond was set on the State Jail felony at \$1,000.

On Jan. 11, 2008, Young allegedly used a vehicle to evade peace officer Rick Armstrong, who was attempting to lawfully arrest or detain Young.

Jose Martin Armendariz, 22, was indicted for possession of a controlled substance, less than one gram. Bond was set on the State Jail felony at \$3,500.

On February 8, 2008, Armendariz allegedly intentionally or knowingly possess a controlled substance, cocaine, less than one gram.

Alan Barragan, 27, was indicted for possession of a controlled substance, less than one gram. Bond was set for the State Jail felony at \$2,500.

On July 7, 2008, Barragan allegedly intentionally or knowingly possessed a controlled substance, cocaine, less than one gram.

Alan William Broadbent, 46, was indicted for evading arrest or detention with a vehicle. Bond was set for the State Jail felony at \$5,000. Broadbent

was also indicted for possession of a controlled substance, less than one gram. Bond was set for the State Jail felony at \$5,000.

On Aug. 13, 2007, Broadbent allegedly used a vehicle to flee from Peace Officer Jarrett Parsons who was lawfully trying to arrest or detain Broadbent. On the same day, Broadbent also allegedly intentionally or knowingly possessed a controlled substance, cocaine, less than one gram.

Israel Chavez, 29, was indicted for tampering with government record license/sealed with intent to defraud or harm Michael Lynn Redmon.

Aldo Ray Dennis, 50, was indicted for possession of a controlled substance, greater than one gram but less than four grams. Bond was set on the third-degree felony at \$3,500.

On May 5, 2008 Dennis allegedly intentionally or knowingly possessed a controlled substance, methampheta-

See Indict, Page 5

Mother and two small children overcome by carbon monoxide

by Betsy Phillips
editor@thepampanews.com

The Pampa Fire Department and Guardian EMS personnel were called to the scene of a carbon monoxide poisoning Tuesday afternoon and found a woman and two small children overcome by fumes.

"This was as bad as I've ever seen," Pampa Fire Chief Kim Powell, who has been a firefighter for over 22 years, said of the incident.

A neighbor called 911 and, by the time emergency responders arrived, had carried two children, two months and five years old, out of the house. When firefighters arrived the mother of the children, 26, was unconscious inside the residence at 720 Naida.

Firefighters immediately began treating the three victims.

All were transported to Pampa Regional Medical Center. The conditions of the victims were not known as of press time.

Readings of the air taken inside the home reached 936 PPM (parts per million). Powell said

See Fumes, Page 3

County employees' healthcare costs may rise

by David Bowser
dbowser@thepampanews.com
County employees could be paying more for their health insurance after the first of the year.

The Gray County Commissioners Court asked their insurance carrier to come back to their year-end meeting with some alternatives with regard to rising insurance costs.

In a discussion concerning the county's health insurance Monday, Gray County Auditor Elaine Morris told commission-

ers there were few options in dealing with the costs of health insurance.

"We can have the employees help fund their insurance," she said, "or the county can be prepared to put a lump sum in there."

Pat Sanders with IMS, the county's insurance carrier, said in 2005, the county was averaging about \$538 per employee per month for medical costs and prescriptions. In 2006, that dropped to \$511.

But in 2007, it rose to

an average of \$680 per employee per month and in 2008, it's been averaging \$699.

Over the last two years, he said the prescription costs have stayed about the same, but the medical costs per employee per month have gone up.

"That's been the big increase," Sanders said.

It primarily has been due to some big claims, he said, that the county can't do a whole lot about.

"Going into next year," Sanders said, "we're hoping that a couple of these

claims are going to be gone and not continuing, but you just never know."

He said for the last two years, there have been about nine people with more than \$17,000 in claims. Before that, the average was \$3,000 to \$4,000.

Sanders said he hopes the county is over those two big years for insurance claims and can return to where they were before.

He said the county had good benefits for the employees.

"I know you want to do

that as a county for your employees and I agree with that 100 percent," Sanders said, "but your benefits are rich."

He said that a lot of employers have gone to two options for employees. They have basic plans and plans that cost a little more and the employees have to pick up the difference.




Sanders said the county now has a \$250 deductible and \$1,000 out of pocket expense plan with low co-

See Health, Page 3

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NEXT DAY FORECAST

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		
Sunny	Sunny	Sunny

Thursday: Partly sunny, with a high near 51. Wind chill values between 26 and 36 early.
 Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 31. Wind chill values between 23 and 28.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 53. West wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south-southeast.
 Friday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 31. Southeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming west-southwest.

Saturday: Partly sunny, with a high near 52.
 Saturday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 17.

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Grain prices

The following grain quotations are provided by Attebury Grain of White Deer for the close of the last open market day.

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Milo	5.07
Corn	6.86



Medical Fund established for Jose (Joe) Romero of Pampa who suffers from Lukemia/Graft versus Host disease at Happy State Bank. Your donations can be made out to: the account of **Amanda Smith for the Benefit of Jose (Joe) Romero.**

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Services tomorrow

HOLDEN, Manny — 10 a.m., Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors Colonial Chapel, Pampa.

Manny Holden, 69, of Pampa, Texas, died Dec. 15, 2008, at Pampa.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 18, 2008, at Carmichael-Whatley Colonial Chapel with Pastor Kyle Ohsfeldt, of Grace Baptist Church, officiating.

Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19, 2008, at Memorial Park in Tulsa, Okla.,

under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mr. Holden was born March 7, 1939, in Tulsa, Okla. He had been a resident of Pampa since 1960. He was a licensed funeral director, and owned and operated

Holden Overland, transporting for Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors and other funerals in the

Obituaries

Catherine Mytryk, 87

Catherine Mytryk, 87, of Pampa, died Dec. 16, 2008, at Pampa.

Services are pending with Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

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

Manny Holden, 69

al homes in the Panhandle area.

Manny was a member of the Masonic Lodge, was president of the Everyman's Bible Class and attended Grace Baptist Church.

He was an avid OU fan, and he was loved and valued by his family who knew his loving and sensitive heart.

Survivors include two

nieces, Cathey Harwood of Salt Lake City, Utah, and Donnia Bondallian of Kona, Hawaii; and numerous great-nieces and great-nephews.

MEMORIALS: CASA Of The High Plains, 315 N. Ballard, Pampa, TX 79065.

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

Emergency Services

Pampa PD

Pampa Police Department reported the following calls and incidents Dec. 12.

Friday, Dec. 12
 Officers conducted eight traffic stops.

Calls and stops concerning animals occurred in the 1100 block of South Prairie Drive and the 1100 block of East Kingsmill.

An abandoned vehicle, a 1998 Plymouth Voyager, was reported in the 200 block of Ford.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 500 block of North Doucette, where a driver's side window of a vehicle was

shattered. Estimated value of damages was reported as unknown.

A message was delivered to the 1200 block of North Christine by officers.

Welfare checks were conducted in the 500 block of North Frost and the 600 block of North West.

Theft was reported in the 1200 block of North Wells. A duffle bag filled with clothes worth an estimated \$200 was reported taken.

Suspicious persons were reported in the 300 block of South Hobart, the 1200 block of North Hobart, the 400 block of Hughes and the 700 block of North Somerville.

Traffic accidents were reported in the 600 block of North Sloan and at 15th and Evergreen.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 700 block of North Nelson and the 2800 block of North Rosewood Lane.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 2100 block of North Nelson.

A traffic complaint was reported in the 1200 block of North Hobart.

An alarm was reported

in the 100 block of South Hobart.

Agency assistance was rendered in the 11000 block of Highway 152.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 2700 block of Comanche.

Building checks were performed in the 100 block of East Craven and the 400 block of West Foster.

A suspicious vehicle was reported at Somerville and Texas streets.

Ambulance

Guardian EMS ambulance reported the following calls between 7 a.m. Dec. 11 and 7 a.m. Dec. 13.

Thursday, Dec. 11
 9:20 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1300 block of Coffee and transported a patient to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

10:30 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1500 block of Zimmers. No transport.

6:37 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1900 block of Hilton Road.

7:46 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1600 block of Somerville and transported a patient to PRMC.

7:51 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 500 block of Nelson and transported a patient to PRMC.

8:43 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to

PRMC and transferred a patient to BSA Hospital in Amarillo.

9:19 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 2800 block of Charles and transported a patient to PRMC.

Friday, Dec. 12
 11:02 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 300 block of Sunset and transported a patient to PRMC.

1:58 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1900 block of Hilton Road and transported a patient to PRMC.

2:55 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1200 block of Wells and transported a patient to PRMC.

2:37 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 800 block of South Banks and transported a patient to PRMC.

3:37 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 100 block of South Russell and transported a patient to PRMC.

4:19 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transferred a patient to a local health care facility.

11:43 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to 15th and Evergreen and transported two patients to PRMC.

11:49 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to 15th and Evergreen and transported two patients to PRMC.

Saturday, Dec. 13
 12:52 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 11000 block of Highway 152. No transport.

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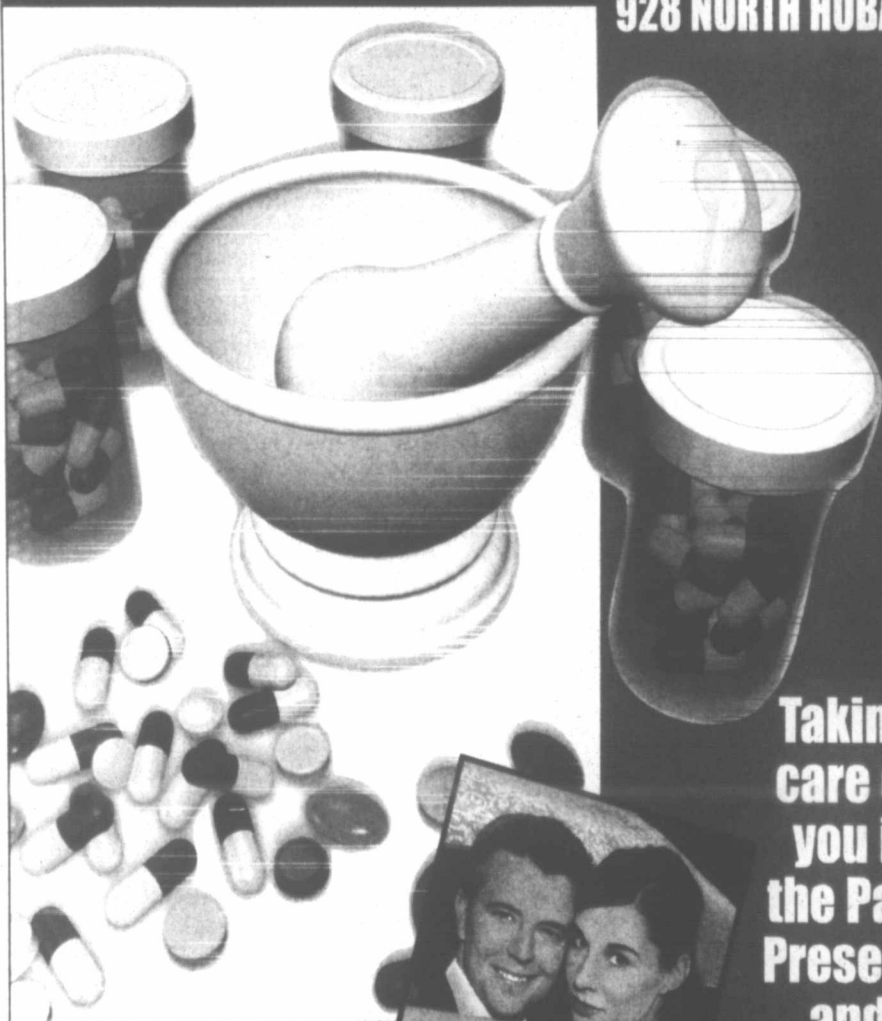
Toys for Tots



staff photo by ReDonn Woods
George Bullard, left, a salesman at Culberson-Stowers auto dealership in Pampa, recently assisted Bethany Silva with her donation to the Toys for Tots box. Culberson-Stowers is currently accepting donations for the area Toys for Tots program through Dec. 18.

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Fumes

Continued from Page 1

fire department detectors' alarms go off at 35 PPM.

It is believed the source of the carbon monoxide was a heater that was not properly vented - or not vented to the outside at all. Carbon monoxide is called "the silent killer," because it is odorless. Often those affected are not aware of its presence until they are already severely affected.

PFD has responded to several such calls in the past few weeks. Powell said there are a number of these incidents each year as the weather turns cold - and people try to keep warm.

This issue is sometimes compounded by a language barrier. Chief Powell said her department has done public safety alerts on local radio, but they have a problem reaching resi-

dents who only speak Spanish, as was the case in this tragic incident.

"They are just trying to stay warm, bless their hearts, and keep their babies warm," Powell said. She related another case a couple of years ago where a woman had been transported several times to the hospital - would get better and then have to return. Finally a doctor asked the fire department to check the house. Sure enough, the problem was carbon monoxide.

Atmos Energy was called to the house to shut off the gas. Firefighters also discovered that a water pipe was broken under the house, so the water and electricity were shut off as well.

"We've had the utilities tagged, so they can't be turned back on until they are up to code," Powell said. The family has relatives and friends in the area, according to Powell.

While smoke detectors are required by city codes for rental properties, car-

bon monoxide detectors are only suggested.

Four units and 10 personnel were on the scene for more than an hour. White Deer EMS also

responded to the scene and assisted in transporting the victims.

Crash injures three Pampans

A roll-over crash just outside Amarillo injured three Pampans Monday afternoon, Dec. 15.

According to Amarillo Police Department Cpl. Jerry Nuefeld, one vehicle, driven by Elizabeth Hudson, 23, of Pampa was traveling in the 1000 block of East Amarillo Blvd. when Hudson apparently veered into the grass beside the road. Nuefeld said it is believed she over-corrected after coming back on to Amarillo Blvd. The car rolled at least twice. Hudson, her 11-month-old son Lyrick and Micki Frazier, all of Pampa, were transported to Northwest Texas Healthcare Systems in Amarillo where they remained Tuesday.

Nuefeld said that all three occupants were properly restrained at the time of the accident.

Health

Continued from Page 1

pays. "Right now," he said, "you don't charge anything for employee-only coverage with your plan."

He said they could offer a plan with more benefits for employees willing to pay for more.

"I think it's important to give people a choice," Sanders said.

He said that the county is averaging \$434 for employee-only coverage and \$1,085 for family coverage. That compares to \$423 and \$1,028 nationally.

He said government plans typically offer richer benefit plans, but Commissioner Joe Wheeley said that's because the salaries are

lower than their corporate counterparts.

"In order to compete," Wheeley said, "we give a little more benefits."

They discussed increasing the deductible from \$250 to \$500 and increasing co-payments from \$25 to \$35.

Sanders said he would run the numbers and get back to the commission.

Sanders suggested switching re-insurance carriers from Mutual of Omaha to Zurich of North America to save about \$35,000 in premiums.

"It's a great company," Sanders said. "It's an A-rated company."

The commission is expected to take the subject up again when they meet for the final time this year on Dec. 31.

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Viewpoints

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Dec. 17, the 352nd day of 2008. There are 14 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 17, 1903, Wilbur and Orville Wright of Dayton, Ohio, conducted the first successful manned powered-airplane flights, near Kitty Hawk, N.C., using their experimental craft, the Wright Flyer.

On this date:

In 1777, France recognized American independence.

In 1830, South American patriot Simon Bolivar died in Colombia.

In 1933, in the inaugural NFL championship football game, the Chicago Bears defeated the New York Giants, 23-21, at Wrigley Field.

In 1944, the U.S. Army announced it was ending its policy of excluding Japanese-Americans from the West Coast.

In 1957, the United States successfully test-fired the Atlas intercontinental ballistic missile for the first time.

In 1975, Lynette Fromme was sentenced in Sacramento, Calif., to life in prison for her attempt on the life of President Gerald R. Ford.

Ten years ago: The United States hit Iraq with a second wave of punishing airstrikes. Republicans advanced the impeachment case against President Bill Clinton to the House floor for a debate the following day.

Five years ago: Former Illinois Gov. George Ryan was indicted on corruption charges. (Ryan is serving a 6 1/2-year federal prison sentence for racketeering.) An attempt to re-create the Wright brothers' first flight on the 100th anniversary failed to take off.

One year ago: President George W. Bush, addressing a Rotary Club meeting, tried to reassure an edgy public that the economy is "pretty good" despite the mix of a failing housing market, a national credit crunch and surging energy costs. Iran received its first nuclear fuel from Russia, paving the way for the startup of its reactor.

Today's Birthdays: Newspaper columnist William Safire is 79. Magazine publisher Robert Guccione is 78. Actor George Lindsey is 73. Art Neville is 71. Comedian-actor Eugene Levy is 62. Actor Wes Studi is 61. Rock singer Paul Rodgers is 59. Rhythm-and-blues singer Wanda Hutchinson (The Emotions) is 57. Actor Barry Livingston is 55. Producer-director-writer Peter Farrelly is 52. Rock musician Mike Mills (R.E.M.) is 50. Pop singer Sarah Dallon (Bananarama) is 47. Country musician Tim Cheyning is 46. Country singer Tracy Byrd is 42. Country musician Duane Propes is 42. DJ Homicide (Sugar Ray) is 38.

'The only people who never fail are those who never try'

— Ilka Chase
American actress,
author, humorist

Designed by committee

by Congressman
Mac Thornberry
(TX-13)

If a camel is a horse designed by committee, I can't imagine what a car designed by a committee of politicians will look like.

The talk from Main Street coffee shops to the halls of Congress is now dominated by how to "save" or bailout various industries in the American economy. Unfortunately, too much of this conversation is driven by a political need to do "something" regardless of whether that "something" will actually get the economy growing again.

We could be on the edge of a very dangerous precipice. Some of the proposals for the domestic automobile industry involve a virtual government takeover of those companies and the appointment of a government "car czar" to go with the \$14 to \$34 billion of taxpayer dollars. We are hearing politicians telling the shareholders of General Motors and other domestic automobile manufacturers who should or should not run their companies and what kind of cars they should build.

Three months ago, the

government took unprecedented action to prevent the collapse of the financial services sector of our economy and to stabilize the credit markets. It is hard to judge whether that effort has been successful because we can never know what would have happened to banks and businesses all around the country had action not been taken. But it was clear that the entire economy — every industry and sector — depended on access to credit. Shielding specific industries and specific companies from dealing with their problems is a different thing.

Last week, a toy company and a large media company declared bankruptcy. Why should they not receive taxpayer money too?

With automobiles, Ford has said they do not need or want an immediate loan, as is being proposed for GM and Chrysler. Millions of Americans are building cars for other companies and have not asked anything of the government.

No one has argued that \$14 billion or \$34 billion is all that is needed to get the domestic companies on the path to success. The idea that if we extract enough money from the

American taxpayer, we can override market forces and basic laws of supply and demand is just wrong.

As always, a little perspective is helpful. A December 7 report on National Public Radio discussed the Ellis Brooks Auto Center in San Francisco. The late Mr. Brooks began his business in the 1930s and his widow, children, and grandchildren still operate the company. Between 1935 and today Brooks was a REO dealer, a Studebaker dealer, a Kaiser-Frazier dealer, a Hudson dealer, and on April 14th, 1955, he became a Chevrolet dealer. The Brooks dealership plans to terminate its relationship with Chevrolet this month, ending a 53-year new car dealer relationship with GM.

In the 70-plus years the Brooks family has been in the car business, REO, Studebaker, Hudson, and Kaiser-Frazier have all come and gone. While economists and automobile enthusiasts will debate why each of these companies failed, the bottom line is that both the American economy and the Ellis Brooks Auto Center survived the rise and fall of those brands.

So what should be done? The normal course for large companies in trouble is to submit to a "pre-packaged bankruptcy proceeding." The company can continue to operate, but there would be an opportunity to revise the high labor contracts which prevent these companies from being competitive. There would also be an opportunity to bring in new management and restructure the companies.

In addition, the federal government should do all it can to encourage economic growth and job creation so that people in all industries can benefit. But that does not mean that the government should run those industries or dictate to companies what they must do.

If a camel is a horse designed by committee, I can't imagine what a car designed by a committee of politicians will look like. Substituting the judgment of a "car czar" or a committee composed of the heads of the six different federal departments for the choices buyers make in the market is the wrong way to create a 21st century American auto industry capable of competing in the world market.



THE PAMPA NEWS

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

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From our readers

I would like to express my concern for a horse that is fenced in on a small plot of ground located on 29th and Beech St. I have been checking on this horse daily, and since the cold weather, I feel that this horse is in danger. This horse doesn't have any shelter and has already eaten all of the grass growing in this fenced in area. Hay has

been provided for this horse along with a metal water tank. Since the extreme cold weather, I have found the tank frozen over several times. During the nine degree weather and high winds, this poor horse has had to stand outside in the elements with no shelter, frozen water and only hay to eat. There are other horses next to this horse's pen that

have blankets on them for warmth, as well as having other horses to share body heat. Please help this poor animal, as I am fearful that this poor horse will not make it through a long, cold winter.

Sincerely,
Reed Kirkpatrick

Obama faces heady challenges, and they're growing

WASHINGTON (AP) — President-elect Barack Obama, relatively young and inexperienced, is facing a rapidly growing list of monumental challenges as he prepares to take the reins of a nation in turmoil.

"I do not underestimate the enormity of the task that lies ahead," Obama said after his historic election a little more than a month ago.

It was a sobering assessment at the time, but the country's problems have only worsened since then. Now, Obama sounds dire, particularly as he talks about the economy: "We're in an emergency."

He spoke during a week in which Congress killed a bailout of the failing auto industry, the government reported that jobless claims spiked to their highest levels in

more than a quarter-century, and the Treasury Department said the U.S. registered a record federal budget deficit for November.

His performance from the outset could well set the tone for his presidency.

Not only is Obama saddled with lingering wars in Iraq and Afghanistan that he is inheriting from President George W. Bush, but he also must deal with:

- A deepening recession in the U.S. and a spreading global economic crisis.
- An automotive industry on the brink of collapse and soaring national debt.
- Increasing unemployment and its ripple effects.

The president-elect says he's "absolutely confident" his aides did not try to cut deals with

Blagojevich, but at the very least, the scandal is a distraction for a leader facing the magnitude of problems on Obama's plate.

Obama also has promised an ambitious foreign and domestic policy agenda that includes withdrawing most U.S. combat troops from Iraq, cleaning up government, overhauling the health care system, fighting global warming and developing alternative energy sources.

Some priorities may fall to the wayside or be done piecemeal. But, so far, he has signaled an intent to move forward on much if not all of those plans. The question is how quickly he can accomplish his goals, while simultaneously confronting the growing list of major problems.

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Indict

Continued from Page 1

Romeryl Edward Dowdy, 44, was indicted for driving while intoxicated, third or more enhanced. Bond was set on the second-degree felony at \$5,000.

On Dec. 29, 2007, Dowdy allegedly operated a motor vehicle while intoxicated. On June 5, 1995, Dowdy was convicted of an offense also related to operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated. On June 12, 2003, Dowdy was convicted of driving while intoxicated, third or more.

Cody McKay Ellis, 20 was indicted for unauthorized use of a vehicle. Bond was set for the State Jail felony at \$2,500.

On July 21, 2007, Ellis allegedly intentionally or knowingly operated a motor-propelled vehicle, an automobile, without the consent of Linda Ellis, the owner.

Terrance Earl Fite, 22, was indicted for evading arrest or detention with a vehicle. Bond was set for the State Jail felony at \$3,000.

On Mar. 14, 2008, Fite allegedly used a vehicle to flee from Peace Officer Lynn Hudson, who was attempting to arrest or detain Ellis.

Ronald Everett Gallagher was indicted for aggravated sexual assault of a child. Bond was set on the first-degree felony at \$25,000.

On Nov. 25, 2008, Gallagher allegedly intentionally or knowingly aggravated sexual assault of a child younger than 14 years of age.

Kory Justin Harris, 30 was indicted for possession of a controlled substance, less than one gram. Bond was set for the state jail felony at \$5,000.

On Dec. 10, 2007, Harris allegedly intentionally or knowingly possessed a controlled substance, methamphetamine, less than one gram.

Kolby Dale Johnson, 22, was indicted for theft of property, greater than \$1,500 less than \$20,000. Bond was set for the state jail felony at \$3,500.

On March. 14, 2008, Johnson allegedly unlawfully appropriated an aluminum irrigation pipe, with a value greater than \$1,500 but less than \$20,000 from Earnest Wilkinson, the owner, without the consent of the owner.

Van Johnson, 54, was

Safety award



Randy Haire, left, was recently recognized by D.W. Stidham, area service manager of Cameron Compression Systems, as earning the company's December safety award. Haire is field service tech II.

indicted for unauthorized use of a vehicle. Bond was set on the state jail felony at \$3,000. He was also indicted for driving while intoxicated, third or more, enhanced. Bond was set for the second-degree felony at \$10,000.

On March 1, 2008, Johnson allegedly intentionally or knowingly operated a motor-propelled vehicle, an automobile, without the consent of Mary Leah Canon-Brito, the owner. On May 29, 2008, Johnson allegedly operated a motor vehicle in public while intoxicated. On Oct. 16, 2001, Johnson was convicted of operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated, and on Jan. 17, 2003 he was convicted of the same thing. On Aug. 24, 1995, Johnson was convicted of sexual assault of a child.

Matthew Gilbert Maul, 37, was indicted for evading arrest or detention with a vehicle with a previous conviction. Bond was set on the first-degree felony at \$10,000. Maul was also indicted for possession of a controlled substance, less than one gram. Bond was set for the second-degree felony at \$10,000.

On Jan. 17, 2008, Maul allegedly used a vehicle to intentionally flee from Peace Officer Robert Douglas, who was attempting to arrest or detain Maul. Prior to this incident, Maul was convicted for evading arrest or detention using an automobile. Maul was convicted of burglary on Dec. 21, 1995 and burglary of a building on Jan. 18, 1996. Maul also allegedly possessed a controlled substance, methamphetamine, less than one gram on Jan. 17, 2008.

Randell Allen Menefield, also known as Randy Peace, 50, was

indicted for possession of a controlled substance, less than one gram.

On Dec. 22, 2007, Menefield allegedly intentionally or knowingly possessed a controlled substance, methamphetamine, less than one gram.

Russell Wayne Pester, 48, was indicted for evading arrest or detention with a vehicle. Bond was set on the state jail felony at \$2,500.

On Feb. 10, 2008 Pester allegedly used a vehicle to flee from Peace Officer Joe Montgomery, who was trying to arrest or detain Pester.

Roger Juan Pineda, 26, was indicted for possession of a controlled substance greater than one gram but less than four grams. Bond was set for the third-degree felony at \$7,500.

On Sept. 7, 2007, Pineda allegedly intentionally or knowingly possessed a controlled substance, cocaine, greater than one gram but less than four grams.

Justin Wayne Sealman, 19, was indicted for possession of a controlled substance greater than one gram but less than four grams. Bond was set on the third-degree felony at \$10,000. He was also indicted for theft of property greater than \$1,500 but less than \$20,000.

On June, 22, 2007, Sealman allegedly intentionally or knowingly possessed a controlled substance, cocaine, greater than one gram but less than four grams. On March 14, 2008, Sealman allegedly unlawfully appropriated an aluminum irrigation pipe, valued at more than \$1,500 but less than \$20,000 from Earnest Wilkinson, the owner, without his consent.

Albert Tambunga, 49, was indicted for posses

Buzzard named city attorney

by David Bowser
dbowser@thepampanews.com

Pampa native Mark N. Buzzard will join the City of Pampa as City Attorney with the new year. Buzzard was named the new city attorney at the Pampa City Commission's Dec. 9 meeting.

"I'm very pleased to have this appointment," Buzzard said, "and be able to contribute in a meaningful way to city where I've grown up."

Born in 1952 in Pampa, Buzzard graduated from Pampa High School in 1970. After earning his bachelor's degree in 1973 from the University of Oklahoma, he went on to earn his law degree from Texas Tech University in 1975.

"My Dad made me go all year round," he laughed.

Buzzard returned to Pampa and passed the bar in May, 1976 and has been in practice here ever since.

"I've moved 1,500 feet since I was born," Buzzard grinned.

Buzzard will be one of two attorneys working for the City of Pampa.

"The city employs two attorneys," Buzzard said, sitting in his office across from the Gray County Courthouse.

Another Pampa attorney, Rick Harris, is the city prosecutor. He prosecutes misdemeanors in municipal court.

"Rick's been there a long time," Buzzard said.

As city attorney, Buzzard will advise the Pampa City Commission concerning legal issues. Buzzard said the city attorney's job involves no prosecution duties.

"This job was held by Don Lane for four decades," Buzzard said.

When Lane retired earlier this year, Franklin McDonough, a former assistant district attorney in Pampa who went into private practice, was

appointed city attorney.

McDonough notified the city last month that he would be leaving after accepting a job with the District Attorney's office in Hutchinson County.

"Franklin got a job he couldn't refuse as assistant district attorney over there," Buzzard said.

So when the city attorney's job opened up, Buzzard applied for it.

"I've always been an admirer of Don's management," Buzzard said, "and he is the absolute authority on Pampa city government."

As City Attorney, Buzzard will meet with the City Commission no less than twice a month and advise the mayor and commissioners.

The city attorney's position is a part time job, he said. Buzzard will continue his private practice here in Pampa.

Man Tries Out For Pro Team After Using Thera-Gesic

BEXAR COUNTY- After applying Thera-Gesic to his sore right knee, Tom W. tried out for his favorite basketball team. When asked why a 5'9" older man could possibly think he would make the team, he painlessly replied: "None of your dang business!"



Go painlessly with Thera-Gesic

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may occur 15 to 50 years after exposure. MESOTHELIOMA or LUNG CANCER may be caused by asbestos exposure, ACUTE MYELOID LEUKEMIA by Benzene exposure and MELANOMA, KIDNEY or BLADDER CANCER by coal tar pitch exposure. Family members may also be exposed by dirty clothes. Call us for professional insight.

Ryan A. Krebs, M.D., J.D. Doctor-Lawyer in Full-time Law Practice
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Pets of the Week...

Pictures Of All The Animals Can Be Viewed In The Window Of The Shelter Office 24 Hours A Day



Have Your Pet's Picture Taken With Santa

Bo and Mona's Pet Groom and Board
316 N. Somerville

Hours: Sundays December 14 and 21, 1 pm - 4 pm
Call 665-2771 for an appointment

Cost: donation to the animal shelter for fund 12.
Used or new bedding, collars, food, etc are also welcome!

Remember to give your pet protection from the cold and to provide fresh water throughout the day.

MONDAY-FRIDAY 3 - 5 PM • SATURDAY - SUNDAY 3 PM - 5 PM

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THESE PETS OR ANY OTHER CONTACT THE ANIMAL SHELTER AT 669-5775 OR COME BY THE SHELTER AT HOBART STREET PARK

Comics

Marmaduke

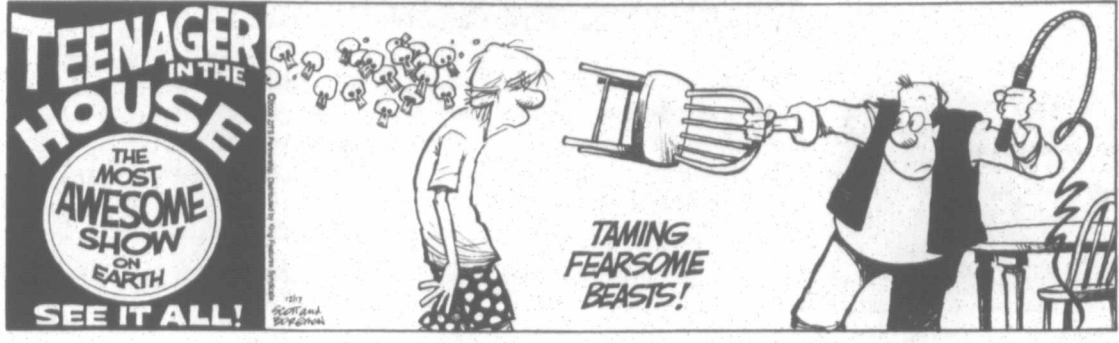


"I'm sorry, I didn't know she would groom you in the window."

For Better Or Worse



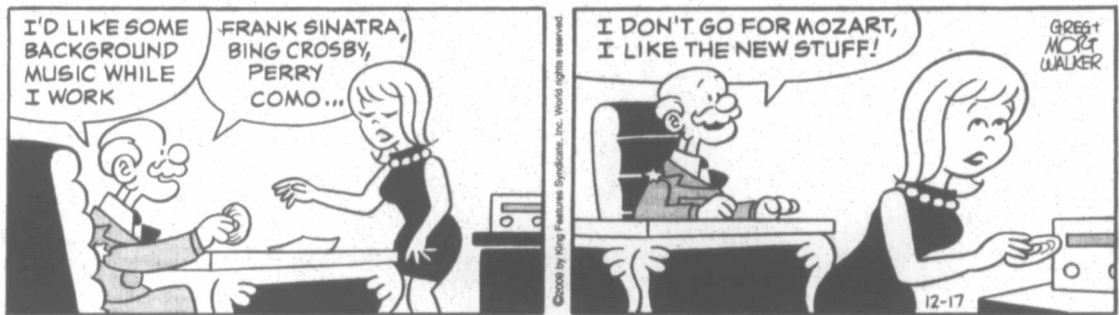
Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Flo & Friends



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



"... he knows all the words to the songs."

Daily Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 40 "Believe it —!"
 - 1 Disconcert
 - 6 Outcropping
 - 10 TV's "Uncle Miltie"
 - 11 Sandra's "Speed" co-star
 - 12 Modify
 - 13 Jockey Arcaro
 - 14 Mrs. Lincoln's maiden name
 - 15 Banded rock
 - 16 Holiday lead-in
 - 17 Small bed
 - 18 Crosses out
 - 19 Dresses up
 - 22 "Just —" (sneakers slogan)
 - 23 Metropolis
 - 26 Slips away
 - 29 Research site
 - 32 Calendar box
 - 33 World labor grp.
 - 34 Charm
 - 36 Hound hopper
 - 37 Squad car sound
 - 38 Fencing swords
 - 39 Wading bird
- DOWN**
- 1 Let up
 - 2 Toni Morrison book
 - 3 1920s style
 - 4 Winter glider
 - 5 That ship
 - 6 Hand over
 - 7 Mathematical base
 - 8 Biscotti flavor
 - 9 Shot in the dark
 - 11 Fort Knox setting
 - 15 Sticky stuff
 - 17 One unlikely
 - 20 Youngster
 - 21 Frank McCourt book
 - 24 At work
 - 25 Christmas symbol
 - 27 Manx, for one
 - 28 Comfortably warm
 - 29 Intense beam
 - 30 Buddy
 - 31 Donkey
 - 35 Onion's kin
 - 36 Golf cry
 - 38 Dandy

ROAMS	WRECK
ENROL	REDYE
SCUBA	DIVING
TUB	LET FIG
SEACOWS	ICE
AMY	SCAR
SHUNS	REELS
NAPS	BEN
AMS	SANTANA
PIC	ELO KIN
STAGED	DIVING
TULIP	RATES
OPENS	START

Yesterday's answer

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 1, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10					11			
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37						38		
39						40		
41						42		



submitted photo
The Employees, Volunteers and Medical Staff purchased Christmas Gifts for 14 Salvation Army Angels. The gifts were purchased with funds raised from a silent auction and contributions from individuals at Pampa Regional Medical Center. Pictured: PRMC Employees Billie Ward, at left, and Leanne Hall pack Angel gift bags with Ray Hupp (center), Volunteer for The Salvation Army Angel Tree Program.

Morris

Continued from Page 1

infrastructure in larger cities in worse shape than you do in smaller cities like ours."

Given the boom and bust cycle of the oil patch over which much of Pampa's economy relies, there have been times when there just wasn't the money to replace some parts of the city infrastructure.

But any problems that the city faces are far outweighed by its assets, Morris said.

The local economy is holding, at least for the moment, he said.

"There's still some interest in housing," Morris said.

There is a new motel in the planning stages.

"We're still seeing a lot of interest in new businesses coming to town," he said.

He said he's keeping a close eye on sales tax figures as a barometer of the local economy. For now, at least, it's up again, but those numbers reflect what was happening two months as a lagging indicator.

Morris said that when they start on developing the budget after the first of the year, they should have some indication from the sales tax numbers of what the fall sales receipts were.

He said he is confident that any slow down is just temporary.

"In the past," he said, "we've had downturns in the economy, but from my experience it has not been as bad here as it has been in other parts of the country."

He said he hopes that's the case this time, too.

Morris said the city has an excellent staff and he looks forward to continue to work with them.

"We have excellent folks in key positions in the city," he said.

Pampa's biggest asset, he said, is the people of the community.

"This is a community that has shown over a period of time a lot of support for different things that they've been interested in," Morris said.

He said Pampa is a good community.

"I think the thing that I

was impressed with when I first came here," Morris said, "was it was a good sized community. My wife and I both thought it was a good place to raise our children."

His wife, Jan, is a kindergarten teacher at Austin. He has two children, a son who is a doctor at Llano and a daughter who is a trainer in the Dumas Independent School District.



Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: My 14-year-old daughter, "Melissa," is bisexual. Most girls her age have sleepovers, but my husband says that any girl Melissa likes should be considered the same as a boyfriend, so it is not appropriate for her to spend the night.

I disagree. A girlfriend is not the same -- mainly because Melissa won't end up getting pregnant after spending the night with a girl. What do you think? -- MOM IN ST. PETERSBURG, FLA.

DEAR MOM: If Melissa is romantically attracted to a particular girl, your husband has a valid point. However, he is mistaken if he thinks that because Melissa is bisexual she is attracted to EVERY female she meets. That is no more true than the idea that heterosexual individuals are sexually attracted to EVERY member of the opposite sex. When it comes to friendships, most are platonic -- and you and your husband should keep that in mind before deciding whether or not to allow your daughter to participate in sleepovers.

DEAR ABBY: My husband, "Donald," and I are retired. He attends social meetings about four times a month. Food is served at these meetings, and he usually brings part of the meal home. Then he announces that the food is "his" and that I shouldn't eat any.

Abby, his "take-home" will stay in the refrigerator

for a day or so, and I have to see it every time I open the door. It often looks delicious -- not the kind of thing we usually have for meals at home. Don will then eat it in front of me, and it kills me that he won't share.

I have tried telling my husband that he should share his food, but it throws him into a rage. He claims the food is his because it was part of a meal he didn't finish and brought home to eat.

I'd like your opinion because I consider this cruel. Who's right? -- JAYNE IN MIAMI

DEAR JAYNE: You are, and I can see how your husband's behavior is hard to swallow. His actions are not only selfish but also intimidating. People who won't share food are usually selfish about other things as well.

Allow me to share a bit of advice: On the nights when your husband is socializing, make some plans with some of your women friends. Because you're not getting your treats at home, get them elsewhere.

Sudoku

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

6	7	4	5	9	3	8	2	1
3	2	8	6	1	4	9	7	5
1	5	9	7	8	2	4	6	3
7	1	5	4	6	9	3	8	2
8	4	2	3	7	1	6	5	9
9	6	3	2	5	8	7	1	4
4	9	6	8	2	5	1	3	7
2	3	7	1	4	6	5	9	8
5	8	1	9	3	7	2	4	6

	8	5				7		
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	6	2						
	1							8
8	5							3
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9			7					2

Level: Intermediate

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FACT

AFTER 9/11 ATTACK ON THE AMERICAN PEOPLE IN NEW YORK CITY!

GM Headline News reported U.S. AUTO MAKERS rolls in relief and recovery efforts in New York and Washington!

THE FINDINGS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- FORD - \$10 MILLION** to American Red Cross matching employee contributions of the same amount PLUS 10 Excursions to NY Fire Dept. The Company also offered ER response team services and office space to displaced Government employees.
- GM - \$10 MILLION** to American Red Cross matching employee contributions of the same amount and a fleet of vans, SUV's and Trucks.
- CHRYSLER - \$10 MILLION** to support of the children and victims of the September 11 attack.
- HARLEY DAVIDSON MOTORCYCLES - \$1 MILLION** and 30 new motorcycles to the NYC Police Department.
- VOLKSWAGEN - Employees and Management** created a September 11 Foundation, Funded initially with \$100,000 for well-being of the children and victims of 9/11.
- NISSAN - \$500,000** to American Red Cross.
- NISSAN MOTORCYCLES - NOTHING!**
- HONDA - NOTHING!** Despite boasting the second best sales month ever in August 2007.
- TOYOTA - NOTHING!** Despite claims of high sales volume in July and August 2007.
- AUDI - NOTHING!**
- BMW - NOTHING!**
- DAEWOO - NOTHING!**
- FIAT - NOTHING!**
- ISUZU - NOTHING!**
- MITSUBISHI - NOTHING!**
- PORSCHE - NOTHING!**
- SUBARU - NOTHING!**
- SUZUKI - NOTHING!**

WILLING TO SETTLE FOR LESS?

LESS Education? - LESS Street Repair?
 LESS Property Value? - LESS Health Care?
 LESS Police & Fire Protection?
 LESS Merchant Support for Local Fundraisers?
 LESS Support for Local Schools?

THINK ABOUT IT IF YOU ARE ON YOUR WAY TO SHOP SOMEWHERE ELSE!

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