


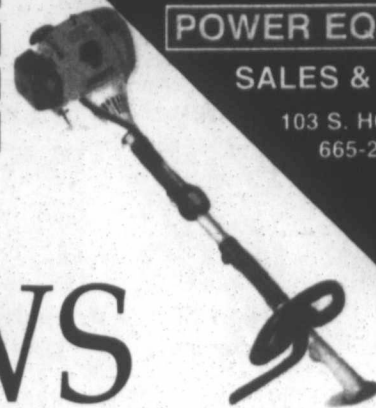
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Wednesday, January 14, 2009 Volume 104 • No. 241

City selects Morris as manager

by Betsy Phillips
 editor@thepampanews.com
 The Pampa City Commission voted to take the "Interim" off Richard Morris' job title making him City Manager. The appointment, which is effective immediately, was made at last night's regular commission meeting. Commissioners voted unanimously to make the permanent appointment in the closed session of the meeting, according to

Mayor Lonny Robbins. The city received 19 applications for the position, the mayor added, "of all ages and different qualification levels." The applicants ranged from as far away as California. "We felt it was best for the city and its employees to stay with someone who knows the system," Robbins said after the meeting. Morris has been employed with the city for 17 years, most recently at

the city's Public Works Director. "We just felt—we want our personnel not to be in limbo, we want to make this quickly and as smoothly as possible." In other action the board: Awarded a bid for the construction of a shop and office building at the landfill to Jim Sartain, Inc, in the amount of \$231,997. Construction is expected to start on the 40' by 80' structure in about eight

weeks, then 120 days are allowed for construction, according to the bid. The construction will include upstairs decking, so the city can add offices upstairs at a later date, as well as three bays to keep expensive equipment out of the weather. Heard an initial presentation for updating or replacing the municipal pool from Mark Hatchel,



Morris

See City, Page 3

SESSION OPENS, SPEAKER CHOSEN



Rep. Joe Crabb, R-Atascocita, holds his granddaughter, Evelyn Judge, as he takes the oath of office to begin the 81st session of the Texas Legislature Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2009, in Austin, Texas. The child, 3 months old, is from London, England. (AP Photo/Harry Cabluck)

Tuesday's highlights from the 81st Texas Legislature

AUSTIN (AP) — The 81st Texas Legislature convened Tuesday with \$9 billion less to spend, a new leader in the House and lawmakers facing some tough questions about the economy, education, and how to best prepare for the next hurricane. Legislators were warned a day earlier that times could be tough when state Comptroller Susan Combs told them of the cash crunch. Even though the session will be jammed from now until June 1 with policy debates on myriad issues, the two-year budget is the only bill lawmakers are required to pass. And for a little while, there was a renewed spirit of bipartisanship. Rep. Joe Straus, a 49-year-old San Antonio Republican relatively unknown statewide, was elected House Speaker to lead a chamber bitterly divided under Tom Craddick of Midland. Craddick, who in 2003 became the first Republican speaker since the Civil War

era, was forced to abandon a fourth term when his support eroded. Knowing his historic tenure was at an end, Craddick sat next to his wife Nadine and listened as Straus pledged to bring bipartisanship and civility to the House where Republicans hold a slim 76-74 majority. "We will create an atmosphere where everyone's voice can and should be heard," Straus said. "A place where we respect each other's points of view, Democrat and Republican, urban and rural, liberal and conservative." Straus inherits one of the most powerful positions in state government. The speaker sets the agenda in the Texas House and, in terms of political influence, is on par with the governor and lieutenant governor. SENATE DISCORD All that fluff about bipartisanship didn't get very far in the Senate. While the House was soaking in Straus' glow of goodwill, it took only a couple



of hours for Senators to start picking fights. A GOP proposal to scrap filibuster rules sparked a bitter partisan brawl with Democrats. Frustrated Republicans complain the so-called two-thirds rule, a Senate tradition which requires a supermajority of senators — 21 of the 31 members — to bring up bills for

See Session, Page 3

Officials turn down consultant for PEDC

by Betsy Phillips
 editor@thepampanews.com
 Ken May of the Pampa Economic Development Corporation (PEDC) hit a stone wall of city commissioners at yesterday's regular meeting. The PEDC, who just hired Clay Rice as its new executive director, appeared before the commission to ask permission to enter into a contract with Fiveash, Inc. for consulting services. Terms would have set the consulting rate at \$100 per hour, plus some expenses. Dwight Fiveash has served the PEDC since becoming a board member in 2006. Fiveash became the president of that board, and eventually executive director in June of 2007. May said the board would like Fiveash to smooth the transition to Rice's directorship and to make sure the work being completed on the new offices is "complete and up to standard."

Commissioner Robert Dixon voiced his opposition. "I can't believe that contract was put together in a few minutes...there are travel expenses and running errands for the board, why?" Dixon asked, adding that the PEDC should have confidence in "the guy you hired." "I can't vote for it," Dixon said. Commissioner Brad Pingle pointed out that the city had a similar contract with John Horst when he left the City Manager's position. Dixon pointed out that there is no time period specified in the proposed contract. May said that it would just be a transitional period and costs would be tightly controlled by the board. Mayor Lonny Robbins said, "I just needed to hear that from you, (there have been) construction delays that were out of control. I trust you guys." The mayor then asked for a motion to approve the consulting agreement, which was made by Ward 1 Commissioner Brad Pingle. There was no second. The mayor called again for a second to the motion, and again the commissioners were silent. The motion died, and the agreement failed. Mayor Robbins then told May, "I regret that— I apologize. I'm disappointed."



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PAMPA FORECAST

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
High 34 Low 17	High 55 Low 29	High 57 Low 27

Thursday: Partly sunny, with a high near 34. Wind chill values between 11 and 21. Southeast wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 17. Wind chill values between 8 and 13. East wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 55. Southwest wind between 5 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 29. West-southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 57. North-northwest wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 27. North-northwest wind around 10 mph.

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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.

Wheat.....	4.92
Milo.....	4.51
Corn.....	6.29

Cash Five results

AUSTIN (AP) — 90. Prize: \$367
 Results of the Cash 5 drawing Tuesday night: Matching three of five: 2,655. Prize: \$9
 Winning numbers drawn: 24-27-3-19-6. Matching two of five: 26,325. Prize: \$2
 Number matching five of five: 0. Next Cash 5 drawing: Wednesday night.
 Matching four of five:

Man sought in Oklahoma killings arrested by DPS

EL RENO, Okla. (AP) — A man charged with murdering his girlfriend and her four young children was in a Texas jail Wednesday awaiting extradition to Oklahoma, where investigators had not yet determined the motive for the killings.
 Joshua Steven Durcho, 25, was arrested Tuesday night in Texas' Hamilton County after a one-vehicle crash on state Highway 36, said a Texas Department of Public Safety communications officer in Waco who declined to give his name. Authorities checking Durcho's identity determined he was wanted by Oklahoma authorities.
 He was treated for minor injuries at a Hamilton, Texas, hospital and was being held without bail at

the county jail, the DPS officer said. He did not know if Durcho had an attorney.

Prosecutors charged Durcho with five counts of first-degree murder on Tuesday, a day after an El Reno police officer conducting a welfare check found Summer Garas, 25, and her children dead in their apartment in the Oklahoma City suburb. The children ranged in age from 3 to 7.

Investigators hadn't determined a motive for the killings, said Jessica Brown, a spokeswoman for the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation.

"We don't know if it's a domestic that went terribly wrong," Brown said. "I know they had their ups and downs in their relationship."

Besides Garas, daughters Kirsten Rust, 7; Autumn Rust, 6; and Evynn Garas, 3; and son Teagin Rust, 4, were killed. Brown said they weren't shot, but she didn't specify how the five were killed.

Garas' mother, Susan Rust of Carson City, Nev., Garas' mother, told The Oklahoman that the state Medical Examiner had completed autopsies on her daughter and grandson Teagin, and that she was told they were strangled.

According to court records, Durcho was convicted of car theft as a juvenile and was sentenced to four years in prison in 2003 for unlawful possession of marijuana. He was released in February 2007, records show.

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Obituaries

Lela Smith Clark, 91

Lela Smith Clark, 91, of Pampa, died Jan. 13, 2009, at Pampa. Services are pending with Carmichael-Whately Funeral Directors of Pampa. —Sign the on-line register book at www.carmichael-whately.com.

Emergency Services

Pampa PD

Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents and calls between 7 a.m. Tuesday and 7 a.m. today.

Tuesday, Jan. 13

Officers conducted 16 traffic stops.

A total of 14 calls and/or stops concerning animals occurred.

Police escorts were provided in the 600 block of North Ward and the 1300 block of North Mary Ellen.

Theft was reported at Wal-Mart Supercenter, 2801 N. Charles, where a bad check was reported issued in the amount of \$1,700.

Traffic complaints were reported in the 1200 block of North Hobart, at Sumner and Gwendolyn streets, and in the 1400 block of North Hobart.

Agency assistance was rendered in the 100 block of West 30th.

Forgery was reported in the 1400 block of North Hobart.

Suspicious vehicles were reported in the 900 block of East Brunow, the 200 block of West Cook and the 100 block of South Faulkner.

A civil matter was reported in the 1000 block of South Wells.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 1000 block of Brunow.

Burglary was reported in the 1000 block of South Wells, where someone reportedly broke into a garage and stole a 1989 Nissan 240.

A traffic accident was reported in the 1100 block of South Hobart.

A prowler was reported in the 2400 block of Navajo Road.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 500 block of North Carr.

A missing person was reported in the 1000 block of North Sumner.

Suspicious persons were reported at Francis and Ballard streets, and at Frederic and Finley streets.

Wednesday, Jan. 14

Officers conducted nine traffic stops.

Suspicious persons were reported in the 1800 block of North Hobart, at Randy Matson and Hamilton streets, and in the 600 block of West Crawford.

An alarm was reported in the 400 block of East Brown.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 400 block of North Wynne.

Burglary of a motor vehicle was reported in the 1500 block of North Sumner.

Sheriff

Gray County Sheriff's Office recorded the following arrests.

Tuesday, Jan. 13

Guillermo Leyva, 25, of Tulsa, Okla., was arrested by GCSO on a probation violation for money laundering.

Ryan J. Wohlford, 23, of Forrest City, Ark., was arrested by GCSO for two counts of possession of a controlled substance, manufacture and delivery of a controlled substance, tampering with physical evidence with intent to impair-enhanced, burglary of a building, tampering with physical evidence and credit card/debit card abuse.

Fire

Pampa Fire Department reported the following calls between 7 a.m. Tuesday and 7 a.m. today.

Tuesday, Jan. 13

8:48 a.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 1600 block of Zimmers on a call for medical assistance.

12:52 a.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to a carbon monoxide investigation in the 1000 block of South Hobart. No carbon monoxide was found.

Wednesday, Jan. 14

6:42 a.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 2100 block of Coffee on a call for medical assistance.

Ambulance

Guardian EMS ambulance reported the following calls between 7 a.m. Tuesday and 7 a.m. today.

Tuesday, Jan. 13

7:16 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1300 block of Kentucky and transported a patient to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

8:27 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 700 block of Wilks and transported a patient to PRMC.

9:27 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 100 block of Faulkner and transported a patient to PRMC.

3:29 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transferred a patient to Northwest Texas Hospital in Amarillo.

Texas today ...

Texas Execution
Nation's 1st execution of 2009 Wednesday in Texas

HUNTSVILLE, Texas (AP) — Even a defense lawyer for convicted murderer Curtis Moore acknowledged the horrific nature of the three slayings that convinced a jury to send Moore to death row.

"Facts-wise, it was difficult because of the nature of how the killings happened and the fact the bodies were burned," George Gallagher recalled. "You have an uphill battle."

Moore, 40, was set for lethal injection Wednesday evening. His execution, the first of the year in the United States, would be the first of six scheduled for this month in Texas, the nation's most active death penalty state.

Moore's appeals in the courts were exhausted. On Monday, the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles rejected a clemency request that cited his possible mental retardation as reason to spare him.

Moore already made one trip to the Huntsville death house. In 2002, less than three hours before he was to receive lethal injection, the U.S. Supreme Court stopped his scheduled execution so claims from his attorneys that he was mentally retarded and ineligible for execution could be reviewed. In October, the high court refused his appeal, clearing the way for Wednesday's execution date to be set.

Moore was condemned for a pair of shootings in

November 1995 in Fort Worth.

Bodies Found

Man sought in Okla. killings arrested in Texas

EL RENO, Okla. (AP) — A man charged with murdering his girlfriend and her four young children was in jail in Texas early Wednesday awaiting extradition to Oklahoma while investigators searched for a motive.

Joshua Steven Durcho, 25, was arrested Tuesday night in Texas' Hamilton County after a one-vehicle crash on state Highway 36, said a Texas Department of Public Safety communications officer in Waco who declined to give his name. Authorities checking Durcho's identity determined he was wanted by Oklahoma authorities.

He was treated for minor injuries at a Hamilton, Texas, hospital and released to a state trooper who took him to the county jail, where he was being held without bail, the DPS officer said. He did not know if Durcho had an attorney.

Prosecutors charged Durcho with five counts of first-degree murder on Tuesday afternoon, a day after an El Reno police officer conducting a welfare check found Summer Garas, 25, and her children dead in their apartment in the Oklahoma City suburb. The children ranged in age from 3 to 7.

Killing Spree

Judge seals psychiatric records of murder suspect
 AUSTIN (AP) — A judge has sealed the psy-

chiatric records of a man accused in the deaths of six people in a cross-country killing a day after details from the records were aired on television, according to a newspaper report.

Travis County Assistant District Attorney Dayna Blazey had said two doctors told a judge that Paul Devoe was mentally incompetent. Judge Brenda Kennedy signed a motion last month that Devoe was mentally incompetent to stand trial. He will be sent for treatment to a maximum-security psychiatric hospital in North Texas.

On Tuesday, an Austin American-Statesman reporter tried to get copies of psychiatric reports by the two physicians. Although copies of the reports were in Devoe's case file at the Travis County district clerk's office, the reports were sealed later that evening by Kennedy, the newspaper reported Wednesday for its online edition. Phone messages to Kennedy's office were not returned Tuesday night, the newspaper reported.

The psychiatric reports detailed Devoe's history of mental illness and drug use. They were previously obtained and aired by Austin television station KTBC on Monday night.

Blockbuster-CinemaNow
Blockbuster downloads CinemaNow for video delivery

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Blockbuster Inc. is stamping its brand on CinemaNow's system for

delivering movies over the Internet, providing the video rental chain with another avenue for reaching consumers who want to rent and buy movies without traveling to a store.

The alliance with CinemaNow, to be announced Wednesday, accelerates Blockbuster's push to catch up with rival Netflix Inc., which has diversified beyond its DVD-by-mail service by piping more than 12,000 movies and TV shows over high-speed Internet connections.

Dallas-based Blockbuster took its first step toward matching Netflix in late November when it introduced a gadget, made by 2Wire Inc., that connects to television sets and temporarily saves video after it's downloaded over high-speed Internet connections. Netflix already had been marketing a similar box made by Roku Inc.

"We put our toe in the water and now this gives us a significant leap forward in our consumer offerings" for digital delivery, Blockbuster Chairman Jim Keyes said in an interview.

The partnership comes just two months after digital video and audio specialist Sonic Solutions acquired CinemaNow for \$3 million from a group of investors that included movie studio Lionsgate and Internet gear maker Cisco Systems Inc. Novato-based Sonic will still oversee the technology powering CinemaNow's re-branded system.

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Session

Continued from Page 1

debate, has been abused by Democrats.

Republicans hold a 19-12 majority in the Senate. The change could come up for a vote as early as Wednesday.

"I think the majority of the people of Texas have spoken," said Sen. Dan Patrick, R-Houston, who is also a conservative radio talk show host. "They want the Republicans to be the majority on the tough decisions."

The flareup put a damper on a day usually dominated by warm greetings, handshakes and backslapping among lawmakers.

"Welcome back, I guess," said Sen. Kirk Watson, D-Austin. "They tell me this is the fun part."

LADIES' LOUNGE

The women's lounge in the Texas Senate just got a serious upgrade.

Thanks to the arrival of two new female senators Tuesday — Wendy Davis, D-Fort Worth, and Joan Huffman, R-Houston — the lounge expanded its row of lockers reserved for the ladies of the chamber. But instead of installing two extras, Senate staffers added four — just in case, Huffman gushed.

"We'll see if they get filled some day," said Huffman, who replaces former Sen. Kyle Janek. Until Tuesday, there were four women in the Senate. Now there are six, the most ever. So with eight lockers in place, there's room for two more.

Davis, who defeated Sen. Kim Brimer and gave the Democrats a rare net pick-up in the chamber, said her first day on the job was like being "the new kid in school."

"I feel like I'm part of history — part of a new history of Texas," she said.

SENATE PRO TEM

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Sen. Robert Duncan, R-Lubbock, was named Senate Pro-Tempore Tuesday, putting the West Texan third in the line of succession to the governor of Texas. Though mostly ceremonial in nature, the Senate Pro Tem fills in as chief executive when both the governor and lieutenant governor are out of the state.

Duncan's colleagues praised the Lubbock Republican as honest and hard-working, though Sen. Rodney Ellis, D-Houston, joked that senators get the post on a rotating basis.

"You stay here long enough, you get your turn," said Ellis, who served as Senate Pro Tem when George W. Bush was governor.

An accolade from Sen. Leticia Van de Putte, D-San Antonio, sounded a bit steamy.

"He is rugged," she said. "And he doesn't look bad in faded jeans, either."

LOOKING AHEAD

Gov. Rick Perry expressed doubts Tuesday that U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison will enter the 2010 Republican primary race against him and said Texans want a leader like him with "big ideas."

Perry, after addressing lawmakers on opening day of the Texas Legislature, talked about his record as governor and his ideas for the future in a wide-ranging interview with The Associated Press.

Perry noted that Hutchison hasn't formally jumped into the 2010 race and, when asked whether he has doubts that she will, Perry said: "Oh yeah. I mean, there's plenty of time for the senator to think that it's not in her best interest, Texas' best interest or the country's best interest to leave the United States Senate and come run for governor. But that's, again, that's her call. I'm running." Perry added, "I've announced, I'm in, I'm here and I'm

enjoying continuing to move Texas forward."

Hutchison's political spokesman, Todd Olsen, said Hutchison is leaning more and more toward running for governor.

City

Continued from Page 1

showed commissioners several different project possibilities, ranging in price from about \$1.8 million to just under \$5 million.

Commissioner Robert Dixon asked about an indoor facility. Hatchel said his division of the company doesn't really build indoor water facilities, but suggested it could be three times as much.

*Approved expenditures for November, declared three side-loader trucks as surplus so they can be sold and denied approval of a contract for consulting services for the Pampa Economic Development Corporation. (See related story.)

El Paso Council upholds veto

EL PASO, Texas (AP) — El Paso City Council members declined Tuesday to revive a controversial decision to ask the federal government to consider legalizing drugs as a way to help curb the Mexico drug cartel war.

The eight-member council split 4-4 on a vote upholding Mayor John Cook's veto of the resolution unanimously passed last week asking the federal government to consider an "open, honest, national dialogue on ending the prohibition of narcotics." The proposal was part of a broad resolution expressing the city's solidarity with Ciudad Juarez, a violence-plagued Mexican border city just across the Rio Grande from El Paso where nearly 1,600 people were killed in 2008 in the escalating struggle for power and control of lucrative drug and human smuggling routes.

At issue for at least three council members who initially supported the resolution was whether the city's stance would cost state and federal funding.

Five state representatives from the region said in a letter they feared that "there will be state agencies, state legislators and others in state government who will see this resolution as the city of El Paso supporting the legalization of drugs. Funding for local law enforcement efforts and other important programs to our community are likely being put in jeopardy, especially during a time when state resources are scarce."

The letter, signed by Democratic state

Reps. Joe Pickett, Chente Quintanilla, Joseph Moody, Norma Chavez and Marisa Marquez, also said the goal of asking "the federal government to legalize narcotics does not bring the right attention to El Paso. It says 'we give up and we don't care.'"

U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes, an El Paso Democrat, also sent a letter asking the council to uphold the veto to ensure that the effort doesn't get in the way of the region's federal agenda.

"While this resolution is well-intentioned, I believe its passage would be counterproductive to our efforts to enact an ambitious legislative agenda at the federal level," Reyes wrote.

Councilmen Beto O'Rourke, who initially pushed the effort for a federal debate, and Steve Ortega said the threats of withholding funding served only "to chill the debate."

O'Rourke amended the nonbinding resolution last week to add the request for the debate on legalizing drugs. Just hours after it was approved, Cook vetoed it. He said it was unrealistic.

On Tuesday, Cook stood by his earlier assessment, saying that O'Rourke's amendment "thwarted the rest of the resolution."

O'Rourke, who had become the target of critics of the resolution, said he accomplished at least part of his initial goal countless people sent e-mails or called council members to talk about the issue.

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Viewpoints

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Jan. 14, the 14th day of 2009. There are 351 days left in the year.

Highlights in history on this date:

- 1784 - United States ratifies peace treaty with England, formally ending American War of Independence.
- 1809 - England and Spain form alliance against Napoleon Bonaparte.
- 1814 - Denmark cedes Norway to Sweden in Treaty of Kiel.
- 1858 - Felice Orsini's plot to assassinate Napoleon III is uncovered.
- 1867 - Peru declares war on Spain.
- 1907 - Earthquake in Jamaica destroys Kingston and takes 1,000 lives.
- 1942 - Forces under U.S. General Douglas MacArthur resist Japanese attacks on Bataan in Philippines in World War II.
- 1950 - United States recalls all consular personnel from China.
- 1966 - Indonesia closes its mission at United Nations as it prepares to withdraw from the world organization.
- 1990 - Azerbaijani attacks on Armenians leave at least two dozen dead in Baku, Soviet Union.
- 1994 - Japanese police raid two companies suspected of selling electronics to the North Korean missile program.
- 1998 - The U.N. Security Council votes unanimously to rebuke Iraq for not giving arms inspectors full access. Iraq accuses an American arms inspector of being a spy.
- 1999 - The United States tells the World Trade Organization that US\$520 million in European imports will face punitive tariffs unless an agreement is reached on the sale of U.S. bananas.
- 2000 - Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines agrees to pay Alaska US\$3.5 million for dumping toxic chemicals, including dry-cleaning fluid, and oil-contaminated water into the state's waters.
- 2001 - Cambodia's Senate approves a law to create a tribunal to try Khmer Rouge leaders. A cabinet minister says the court will spare no leader of the murderous regime.
- 2002 - The U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee releases a letter sent in August 2001 by an executive of Enron Corp. to Kenneth Lay, the energy company's chairman and chief executive officer, pointing out improprieties in the now-bankrupt Enron's accounting practices.
- 2006 - The chief judge in Saddam Hussein's trial submits his resignation. Saddam and his co-defendants are charged in the deaths of more than 140 Shiite Muslims in the town of Dujail in 1982 in retaliation for an assassination attempt.

'Dignity is like a perfume; those who use it are scarcely conscious of it.'

— Queen Christina of Sweden

Today's Birthdays: Valdemar I, the Great, Danish king (1131-1182); Zacharias Topelius, Finnish writer (1818-1898); Albert Schweitzer, French missionary-doctor-musician, Nobel Peace Prize laureate (1875-1965); Faye Dunaway, U.S. actress (1941—).

Stakes are high in bailout vote for Obama, Dems

WASHINGTON (AP) — President-elect Barack Obama eventually will gain access to the second half of the \$700 billion financial bailout fund, politics notwithstanding and more likely sooner than later.

The test is whether he can persuade enough members of his own party to support an extraordinarily unpopular program and avoid an embarrassing veto fight with a Democratic-led Congress at the outset of his presidency. A critical vote could come as early as Thursday.

Obama faces a handful of freshmen Democrats who opposed the bailout as they campaigned in 2008 and more than a dozen Democratic senators who are up for re-election in 2010, three of whom, Byron Dorgan of North Dakota, Russ Feingold of Wisconsin and Ron Wyden of Oregon, voted against the first installment of the money.

These Democrats certainly are weighing the political implications of their next steps.

Sen. Evan Bayh, D-Ind., who supported the bailout last fall and is up for re-election in two years, described himself as "open-minded but skeptical." Said Bayh: "I don't get the sense of impending crisis today that I did at the time of original enactment. I need to be persuaded about need."

Republicans are mindful of politics too. They seem less eager to cooperate with an incoming Democratic administration, especially on an enormous government spending program that critics say Congress recklessly rushed through last fall without ensuring proper oversight.

Thus, the onus is primarily on Democrats saddled with a politically uncomfortable decision: They can side with voters generally angry over the sweeping government intervention of Wall Street, or they can line up with a president-elect of their own party looking to open his term with a clear-cut win.

Obama doesn't have a big margin for error. While most Democrats are likely to support releasing the second \$350 billion, the president-elect needs every supporter he can get. A majority vote in the Senate to reject giving him the bailout money would trigger a vote in the House, where the idea is even less popular, and force an Obama veto.

"Sooner or later in all presidencies, senators and House members start getting nervous and may tend to go off the reservation," said Burdett Loomis, a political science professor at the University of Kansas. "But I don't think they want to start voting against this president straight away."

Obama headed to the Capitol on Tuesday to make a personal appeal to Senate Democrats, a rarity for a president, let alone a president-elect. He has dispatched emissaries to Congress for days now to confer with lawmakers on the plan.

A senator for four years, Obama is using his knowledge of Capitol Hill and a transition team stocked with House and Senate veterans to maneuver for victory while assuring lawmakers that he views Congress as a coequal branch of government.

The cooperative tone will be equally essential for winning congressional

approval of his upcoming economic rescue plan, expected to cost about \$775 billion.

Analysts say he must change the bailout program, which he acknowledges is flawed, enough to make it palatable to Democrats who opposed it last fall.

"If you stumble out of the gate it's a terrible precedent for what's to come," said Ross Baker, a political science professor at Rutgers University. That said, he added of Democrats, "I think they'll walk the plank for him."

Indeed, several Democrats emerged from Tuesday's meeting seeming to agree with where Obama was heading. They said he told them he would veto any successful effort to block the money and promised more oversight of the program.

"I feel much more comfortable," said Sen. Patty Murray of Washington, a Democrat who is up for re-election in two years and who initially voted for the bailout. Even so, she said she hasn't yet decided on how to vote now amid outcry from her constituents.

One Democrat who voted against the bailout last fall, Sen. Bill Nelson of Florida, appeared frustrated with Obama's team on the matter.

At Peter Orszag's confirmation hearing to be Obama's director of the Office of Management and Budget, Nelson said no one has been satisfied with how the first \$350 billion has been spent and added, "I think in this era of freshness and transparency that the new administration would want to come forth with detail instead of this mumbo-jumbo that's going on."

Among Democratic freshmen who objected to the bailout, Sens. Tom Udall of New Mexico and Mark Udall of Colorado voted against it when they were in the House, while Sen. Kay Hagan of North Carolina said, "It's a fix for Wall Street, not Main Street."

These and other lawmakers are keenly aware of the potential pitfalls of backing the program. They watched as Sen. Saxby Chambliss, a Georgia Republican, almost lost his seat last fall over his supportive bailout vote.

Still, Obama has time, and a long-term political environment amenable to Democrats, on his side as he looks to secure Democratic support.

The 2010 midterm elections are still more than a year and a half away, and it's far from certain that this single vote will have staying power as a vulnerability. If the economy does, in fact, improve, backing the program could actually be seen as a good move.

At the same time, several incumbent Democratic senators, like Harry Reid of Nevada and Chuck Schumer of New York, are immensely popular in their home states.

And the political outlook is much worse for the GOP, with a spate of retirements, George Voinovich in Ohio, Kit Bond in Missouri and Mel Martinez in Florida, leaving open seats ripe for Democrats to seize.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Liz Sidoti has covered national politics for The Associated Press since 2003.



Other editors say...

DAILY TRIBUNE, Wisconsin Rapids—On Friday, the Illinois House voted to impeach Gov. Rod Blagojevich, a Democrat, who faces federal corruption charges that he tried to sell a vacant U.S. Senate seat to the highest bidder. The Illinois legislative body needed 60 votes for impeachment; it got 114. The move set up an Illinois Senate trial that will determine if the governor will be removed from office.

Meanwhile, Illinois' Supreme Court ruled that no state official needed to do anything further with Blagojevich's appointment to the U.S. Senate, Roland Burris, to make the appointment valid. Senate Democrats turned Burris away on a technicality because his paperwork didn't have the required signature from Illinois' secretary of state.

Senate Democrat leaders might have no choice but to allow Burris to take the seat vacated by President-elect Barack Obama, although they were correct in saying an appointment by the embattled governor would be tainted.

A larger issue here is whether gov-

ernors should have the power to appoint U.S. senators to vacant seats.

The 17th Amendment to the Constitution gives the Legislature the right to "...empower the executive thereof to make temporary appointments until the people fill the vacancies by election as the legislature may direct."

Basically, that means the decision on vacated seats is up to the states. Prior to the ratification of the amendment in 1913, senators were not chosen by a popular vote; initially, that task was given to state legislatures.

There are advantages to the appointment process. A governor can fill the seat in a timely fashion, and the state avoids a costly special election.

It's worth noting, however, that bribery and intimidation cases were one of the driving forces for historic reform prior to passage of the 17th Amendment. Nine bribery cases were heard in the Senate from 1866-1906, according to the U.S. Senate Web site.

Could this case lead to similar reform?

Blagojevich has not been convicted of anything, and it would be unfair to say that the types of things he is accused of doing are widespread in this country.

Still, this situation brings up the question: Do states give too much power to governors by allowing them to appoint people to vacant U.S. Senate seats? Shouldn't that power to choose a high-profile position such as this rightfully belong to voters?

We welcome your letters

- Letters should be brief and to the point. All correspondence will be edited for length and clarity.
- All letters must be signed. Submit your name, address and telephone number with the letter for verification. Only your name and city will be published.
- Defamatory comments will not be published.
- E-mail submissions are welcome.

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EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

• **The Gray County Livestock Show and Sale** returns to Pampa on January 16 and 17 at the Clyde Carruth Pavilion near the Rodeo Grounds in Pampa. First is the FFA Project Show on Friday the 16th. This show is set aside for our Pampa High School FFA and the Junior FFA Members to compete among their fellow club members. Saturday begins a full day of exhibits at 8 a.m. with multiple breeds of goats, lambs, steers and pigs being shown by students from all over Gray County. These exhibitors are rewarded for best in class with plaques and ribbons. The way that these families finance such projects is from the sale which will be on Monday, January 19, at the M.K. Brown Auditorium at 5:30 starting with dinner \$5.00 a person, buyers and exhibitors eat for free. Local and area buyers will bid in a live Auction to donate money to each exhibitor to reward and pay for the cost of these projects. It is the buyers that make it possible for these kids to continue having projects year after year and the support they offer these organizations is priceless to the families involved. Everyone is welcome to come out and support these hardworking kids and these two great organizations, for show, buyer information or to make a donation please contact Connie McGinty at 806-665-5177.

• **Optimist Boys Basketball** is holding sign-ups for third through sixth grade teams from 5:30 - 7 p.m. Monday, Jan 12 - Thursday Jan. 15 at the Pampa Optimist Club. Visit Pampaoptimist.com for further details. • **The Booster Club** at Austin Elementary School will hold its annual Chili Supper from 5-8 p.m. Jan. 15 in the school cafeteria, 1900 Duncan. Tickets are \$5 per person and cover a bowl of chili or Frito pie, a drink and dessert. Take out orders will also be available.

• **M-O-N-E-Y for college?** Yes, you can send that son or daughter to college. Find out how on **FINANCIAL AIDE NIGHT** at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 15 in the Pampa High School Auditorium. Your questions will be answered when you hear PHS counselors Starla Kindle and Linda Haenisch speak along with High Plains Student Loan Center representatives who will be on-hand to explain grants, scholarships, work-study programs and loans. Seniors and parents should definitely attend this important meeting. Juniors and parents interested in getting a look at their future are also invited.

• **The Red Hat Dollies Society of Pampa** will meet at 11:30 a.m. Jan. 15 at the Pampa Senior Citizens Center, 500 W. Francis, for its monthly meeting. If interested in joining the society, call 669-9916, 669-9297 or 669-3580.

• **"Live On Stage" Community Concerts of Pampa** will present pianist Dale Gonyea at 2:30 p.m. Jan. 25 at M.K. Brown Auditorium in Pampa. Attendance is by membership only. However, tickets for individual perform-

ances may be purchased at the door for \$25. For more information, call 665-0343 or contact Ruth Riehart, president, at 665-3362. The final performance planned for the current season will be "Pianafiddle," a combination of familiar tunes by pianist Lynn Wright and violinist/fiddler Adam DeGraff improvising to get toes tapping and hands clapping. Their performance is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. March 6 in M.K. Brown Auditorium.

• **Pampa Book Club** will meet at 10 a.m. the second Wednesday of each month in the Texas Room of Lovett Memorial Library. The 2009 reading schedule is as follows: Feb. 11, "Three Cups of Tea" by Greg Mortenson and Davie Relin; March 11, "Home: A Memoir of My Early Years" by Julie Andrews; and April 8, "The Glass Castle" by Jeannette Walls. The May 13 book for review will be announced at a later date. Public welcome.

• **The South Plains Agriculture Wind and Wildlife Conference** will begin with registration at 7:30 a.m. Feb. 13 at the American Wind Power Center and Museum in Lubbock. The conference is being conducted by Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Texas Wildlife Association, and Texas Parks and Wildlife. The purpose of the conference is to explore the pros and cons associated with the industry in Texas. For more information, call Ken Cearley, Extension wildlife specialist, at (806) 651-5760.

• **Fawn Lake Press** is offering 'free "Proud to be an American" flag decals to anyone sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to Fawn Lake Press, 54 Fawn Lake Rd., Durango, CO 81301. Active servicemen and women need not send a SASE to receive the free 2 x 3-inch color decals. Fawn Lake will pay their postage.

• **Manhattanville My Soldier** is seeking volunteers to "adopt" a deployed United States Serviceperson. To find out more, visit www.mysoldier.com on-line or write to: Manhattanville College My Soldier Department, 2900 Purchase St., Purchase, NY 10577.

• **T.O.P.S. Club**, a weight loss group, is seeking new members. The club meets from 5:30-6:30 p.m. each Monday at 513 E. Francis. New members welcome.

• **Members of Crowley, Texas, High School Class of 1989** are organizing a class reunion. For more information, e-mail chs89reunion@gmail.com or contact Nancy Dodgen Dyess (817) 994-0969 or Misty Shewmaker Hollis at (817) 991-8090.

• **USS Maddox Destroyer Association Reunion** is slated Sept. 9-13 in Phoenix, Ariz. To find out more, call (337) 616-8450 or e-mail cwgilles45@aol.com.



Mandy Cross shot her first deer, an eight point buck, during the Thanksgiving holiday in Lipscomb County.

Tarrant County inmate escapes

MANSFIELD, Texas (AP) — Law enforcement officials searched Tuesday night for a Tarrant County Jail inmate they said escaped while probation officers were transporting him back to the jail from a drug treatment program in Mansfield.

Authorities say Gregory Donald, 21, was being returned to the jail about 12:45 p.m. Tuesday after getting into an altercation with another inmate. He escaped from a van near Interstate 20, Loop 820 and U.S. Highway 287 and police were looking for a 1998 blue four-door Mercury Mountaineer after a woman said the inmate pulled a gun on her and carjacked her vehicle.

The vehicle, license plate number 133CRV, was last seen shortly after 2 p.m. at Business 287 and F.M. 157.

Donald was serving four years probation on a 2006 aggravated assault conviction when he was arrested in May on a failure to appear in court in a drug case. Terry Grisham, a Tarrant County sheriff's spokesman, said Donald was ordered to remain in jail as a condition of his probation, which was amended after his new arrest.

Donald was described as a black male, 5 feet, 7 inches tall and weighing 160 pounds.

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Mesquite police investigate highway shooting

MESQUITE, Texas (AP) — Mesquite police say a 21-year-old driver was shot at least once following a confrontation with occupants of another vehicle and then crashed the van he was driving into the center barrier on U.S. Highway 80.

Mesquite police say that the driver was taken to a Dallas hospital in critical condition. Two passengers suffered minor injuries when the van hit the barrier early Sunday.

Police say the preliminary investigation shows that the occupants of the van were involved in a confrontation with people in a sedan on Interstate 30. Police say that as both vehicles traveled toward the I-30 interchange with U.S. Highway 80, shots were fired from the suspect vehicle.

Police are asking anyone who may have information or witnessed the shooting to contact them.

Pets of the Week...

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Shih Tzu



Schnauzer

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Comics

Marmaduke



"Marmaduke and the new teacher got along great once he made her stand in the corner."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



"Which color? The purple or the green?"

Daily Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS DOWN

- 1 Almanac fill
- 6 Raised
- 10 Different
- 11 Impassioned
- 12 Is lacking
- 13 Catcher Castro
- 14 Conks out
- 15 Next to
- 16 Tiny laborer
- 17 Pupil's place
- 18 Crosses out
- 19 Act the astronomer
- 22 "Dear me!"
- 23 Closes
- 26 1994 sci-fi film
- 29 Move up and down
- 32 Hwy's.
- 33 Big truck
- 34 Log-on need
- 36 Dryer fuzz
- 37 Accrued
- 38 Following
- 39 Onion layers
- 40 Sulky puller
- 41 Earth tones
- 42 Wrong

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

Yesterday's answer

- 17 Self-centered
- 20 Hosp. workers
- 21 Sch. subj.
- 24 "Mona Lisa" painter
- 25 Positions
- 27 Tack on
- 28 Comes in site
- 29 Pop port
- 30 Honshu
- 31 West African nation
- 35 Diamond scores
- 36 Neeson of "Neil"
- 38 Mud bath

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
					11			
10					13			
12								
14			15					
16			17				18	
19		20			21			
	22				23		24	25
			26		27			28
29	30	31		32			33	
34		35				36		
37						38		
39						40		
41						42		

For Better Or Worse



Zits



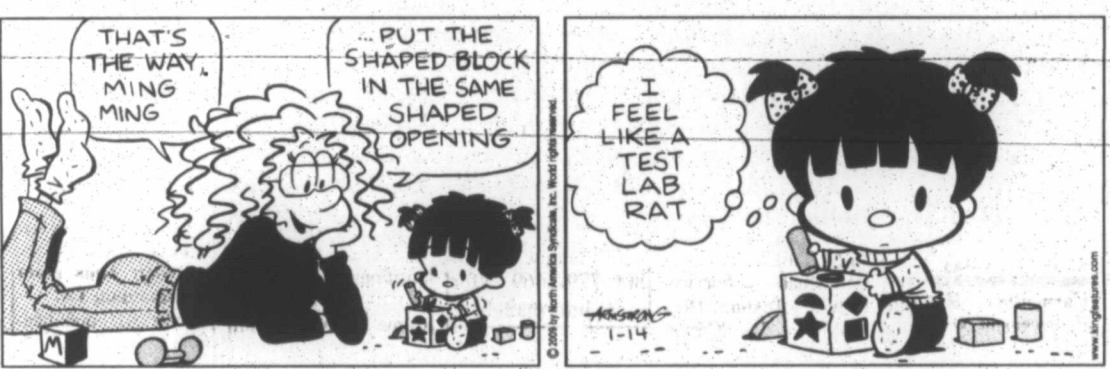
Garfield



Beetle Bailey



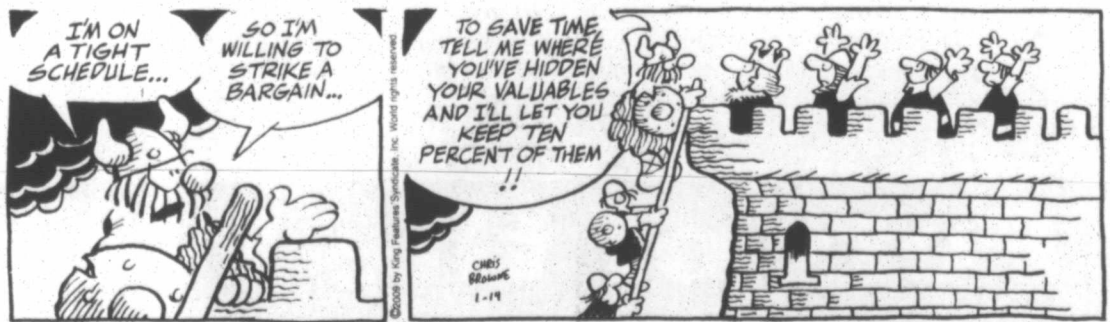
Marvin



B.C.



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Flo & Friends





Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I am a female who is "over 21." I have always been a tomboy. I love to wrestle with my 200-pound boyfriend. Our struggles are vigorous, but never violent, and always end with a kiss or more. My friends are horrified. They say I could be injured and that any man who would physically "fight" a woman is a potential wife-beater or worse. So many people have warned me to "watch out" that now I'm beginning to wonder. To me, it's a good way to have fun and burn off calories. What's your take on this, Abby? — **LOVES TO TUSSELE IN GEORGIA**

DEAR ABBY: If you are the one initiating these "fights," then I doubt that your boyfriend is a potential wife-beater or worse.

(If it were the other way around, I might be concerned.) What you have described sounds more like foreplay than abuse. As long as you both enjoy it and no one becomes injured, what the two of you do is nobody's business, so keep it private.

DEAR ABBY: Have you ever received an invitation for a baby shower that states, "There will be a raffle. All proceeds will go to the family to help with the cost of raising another baby"? Abby, this is the couple's third girl in less than four years and her third baby shower. These are planned pregnancies. The woman's husband earns \$75,000 a year. Prospective guests are also instructed to go online where the baby gift reg-

istry is posted. I am completely at a loss for words after receiving this invite. Any thoughts? — **TAKEN ABACK IN WYOMING**

DEAR ABBY: You have been fairly warned about the intent of the event. Because you are turned off, the word I am suggesting is "Regrets."

DEAR ABBY: I don't know what to do anymore. It seems like I hate everything, but I don't think I'm depressed. I hate working, but love my salary. I hate my co-workers, but realize they're probably no worse than any other workplace. Nothing excites me, nothing motivates me. I don't like anything in particular and have never known what I wanted to do with my life. I don't want to be married or have children. I often wonder what the point of living is. I feel like I'm living every day just to get to the end of life. I'm sure I'm not alone. Please help me and others out there who seem to have lost hope.

- NOT HAPPY IN CANADA

DEAR . NOT HAPPY: Whether you recognize it or not, you may be depressed. As anyone who has read this column knows, there is medical and psychiatric help for depression, which sometimes has a physical cause. However, as I have read and re-read your letter, I am struck by the listlessness and boredom it conveys. Perhaps you would be happier if you dwell less on yourself and the emptiness you feel, and spent some time helping people who are less fortunate than you. Leo Rosten once wrote that the purpose of life is to matter, to be productive, to have it make a difference that you lived at all — using the talents that God has given you for the betterment of others. Please consider what I have said because you are spending far too much time thinking about what you're missing, and frankly may need a verbal kick in the fanny.

Sudoku

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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

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

Level: Intermediate

4 Not Respon.

AS of January 13, 2009, I Wendell L. Adams will not be responsible for any debts other than those incurred by me. Signed, Wendell L. Adams.

5 Special Notices

ADVERTISING Material to be placed in the Pampa News, MUST be placed through the Pampa News Office Only.

10 Lost/Found

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FOUND around 900 E. Frederic female Rat Terrier, very sweet. Call 662-9700.

13 Bus. Opp.

GREAT Investment opp: Pampa motel. Retired couple or individual. 665-1875, 806-383-1985.

14d Carpentry

Carpentry, Roofing, Replacement Windows, steel siding & trim. Continuous gutters. Jerry Nicholas 669-9991, 662-8169

14d Carpentry

OVERHEAD DOOR REPAIR Kidwell Construction. Call 669-6347.

14e Carpet Serv.

NU-WAY CLEANING SERVICE Bob Marx Owner-Operator. Call 665-3541.

14h Gen. Serv.

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14s Plumbing/Heat

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JACK'S Plumbing, 715

W. Foster, 665-7115.

21 Help Wanted

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

CORNERSTONE Baptist Church is now hiring a Part-Time Secretary. Interested applicants can call 669-6509, send resume to 2410 W. 23rd, or email to cornerstone@cbcpampa.com

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OPERATOR II for

Frontier Natural Gas, LLC, a business enterprise of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe Growth Fund. This position is responsible for all purposes and duties necessary to ensure optimum plant performance. This position is located at the Antelope Hills Plant in Canadian, TX. Minimum qualifications include: High School diploma or equivalent; experience working in a natural gas industry; working knowledge of computers and spreadsheet software applications, and control systems; and, must be able to work a rotating work-week on-call schedule and be available for overtime and weekend duty as needed. Must have a valid driver's license for state of residency and be insurable under the Frontier vehicle insurance policy. Employment Applications are available online at www.sugf.com/opportunities.asp; or, from Human Resources, Southern Ute Indian Tribe Growth Fund, 14933 Hwy. 172, PO Box 367, Ignacio, CO 81137, 970-563-5067 bbeaubien@sugf.com Closing Date: 5:00 p.m., January 23, 2009

OWPSI- seeking Crew Foreman, Roustabout, Polype and Foreman. Exp. ONLY apply. 112 W. Commercial, Miami, TX 806-868-2131, 806-278-0069.

OWPSI- seeking Exp. Roustabout Hands. Apply at 112 W. Commercial. 806-868-2131 or 806-278-0069.

21 Help Wanted

NEED exp. Roustabouts for Miami, TX area. Drug test req. Call 580-819-1073.

ASPHLUNDH Tree Expert Co., is seeking Crew Forepersons and Trimmers to work in the Pampa & Borger area. Qualified applicants must have a CDL and be able to pass a background check. (Full-Time / Year-Round Employment). In order to be considered an applicant, you must complete a pre-employment application. Interested applicants should contact Truman Beck at (806)544-6894. Drug Free Workplace. EOE:AA-M/F/V/D

DIETARY/KITCHEN

AIDE: Various duties in diningroom & kitchen area. Prepare / clear trays, etc. Must be reliable & dependable. EOE. Please apply in person at CORONADO HEALTHCARE CENTER, 1504 W. Kentucky, Ave., Pampa

NURSES Unlimited

Inc. is seeking enthusiastic and outgoing Caregivers to assist clients in the home with personal care, meal prep & light housekeeping. P.T. EOE. Call 1-888-859-0631.

OPEN Positions at

Pampa ISD: Property Services Technician. Interested applicants should apply in person, 321 W. Albert or call Debbie Middleton, 806-669-4718.

PART-TIME Church

Secretary needed. Exp. in word, Excel, Publisher, Power Point. Highland Baptist Church, 665-3300, M-F, 9-1p. or come by 408 W. Kingsmill, Ste. 173A

PART Time position

avail. Days vary. Duties incl.: sales, cashier, stocking, cleaning, delivery, able to lift 50 lbs. Must be mature, friendly, clean. Apply in person Heard-Jones

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69 Misc.

CUSTOM SOY CANDLES. Jar & lid filled. Unique & favorite scents. 669-2158

RED Barn Open Sat. 10-5pm. 1420 S. Barnes, 665-2767.

FIREWOOD For Sale. Cut to order. 806-662-1000.

WILL the gentleman that buys junk cars give me a call? Call 669-6923.

READY TO GO OFFICE.

Quick Delivery. call 806-358-4559.

OAK trailer flooring, all sizes. Seasoned Oak Firewood delivered & stacked. 580-564-2797.

69a Garage Sales

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80 Pets & Suppl.

BOXER Pups for sale 2 males, white 382-8413

95 Furn. Apts.

ALL real estate advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." State law also forbids discrimination based on these factors. We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

102 Bus. Rental

OFFICE Space for rent, ask about 3 months free rent. 669-6841.

DOWNTOWN office

space for rent. Utilities & cleaning service provided. Ample parking. 669-6823

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

NBC PLAZA 806-665-4100

103 Homes For Sale

2901 Rosewood. Totally remodeled inside & out. C h.a., 3 bdr., easy to enter lrg. shower w/ seats. All appl. incl. Huge 2 car att. gar. Lrg. det. workshop. \$66,000. 665-5923, 669-1777.

BEAUTIFUL Country

Log Home. 4 bdr., 4 ba. 15 acres. 30x30 shop. 664-2759.

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FOR HOUSES! CALL 665-1875

Newly Constructed by TinneyBuilt

Homes: Nearly Complete. 3BR, 2 Bath, w/office. 2-car garage. Approx. 1750 sq ft. for \$184,900. Call Gary at TruStar Realty at 440.1698 or Sheila at 440.1690

Owner Will Finance

EZ Terms 1333 Garland, 2 bdr., 1 ba., 1 car carport

2011 Coffee

3 bdr., 1 ba could be 4 bdrn sunroom in back

341 Miami

3 bdr., 1 ba. Fenced Yard Call Milton 806-790-0827

SMALL 2 bdr. Central

heat. Some hardwood. Utility room. 405 Perry. OWC. 662-7557.

114 Recre. Veh.

DODGE Motor. w/ power Good cond. w/ home plant ready to go camping. \$1000 obo plus Ford F 150 4 X 4 V8, runs good \$1000 obo 806-207-0039, 806-663-2294, Freddie.

115 Trailer Parks

TUMBLEWEED Acres, storm Shelters, fenced, stor. bldg. avail. 665-0079, 665-2450.

We have Good Things in Store.

Sales Associate

Sherwin-Williams, a leader in the paint and coatings industry has an opening at our Pampa, TX store for a (part-time) Sales Associate. In this position, you will assist customers, stock and price products, maintain store displays and tint and mix paint. (Position requires 20 to 25 hours per week.) Here's what you get: Competitive salary, company paid training, uniforms, employee discounts and growth opportunities. Here's what you need: High school diploma or equivalent, ability to work all scheduled hours and valid driver's license.

Apply in person to: Scott Porter, Store Manager

Apply at: The Sherwin Williams Company
2109 N. Hobart, Pampa, TX 79065
Tel: (806) 665-5727

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Petroleum Bulk Drivers

Eastex Crude Co. is taking applications in Pampa, TX. For Day & Night Drivers Applicants must have a Class "A" CDL with Hazmat & Tanker Endorsements •Home Daily •Full Benefit Pkg.

Clint (903)856-2401 x-137 (800)443-8580

DAILY HOROSCOPE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, Jan. 15, 2009:

Get past immediate situations. That attitude will be one of your ways of handling issues this year. By detaching, you will gain additional insight into the people and problems involved. Trust your skills to come up with a middle ground that is workable and/or a novel solution. If you are single, you meet people with ease. Your popularity soars to a new level this year. Know that you might want to get to know someone better before deciding this is "it." Time is your ally. If you are attached, the two of you can get along better together, especially if you are willing to listen more to your sweetie and understand where he or she is coming from. LIBRA knows how to pitch in and make a difference.

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Though you feel a need to handle matters in a certain way, someone could be quite pushy. The issue will be how to handle the situation best. How do you win a power play? By not playing. Tonight: Hang with one or more of the many good people in your life.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Tap into your creativity in the morning, whether scheduling your day or handling an inevitable hassle. You know your limits. Reach out for someone at a distance who can be, and frequently is, contrary. Tonight: Squeeze in some exercise.

New twist for Pickens in energy independence fight

WASHINGTON (AP) — Texas oilman T. Boone Pickens is adding a new wrinkle to his push for U.S. energy independence: monthly updates to remind Americans how much money they're paying for foreign oil.

Pickens, a billionaire who is spending \$60 million on a high-profile campaign to boost the use of wind power and natural gas, said Tuesday the updates would be a yardstick for measuring the incoming Obama administration's progress on its goal of eliminating Middle East oil imports within a decade.

"You watch, we will elevate the interest in this," he said.

Pickens and environmental advocate Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. said oil-rich

Middle East nations are using billions of U.S. energy dollars to build new schools, roads and airports while America's infrastructure crumbles. They made the comments during a briefing at the Capitol.

Americans in December sent \$19.3 billion overseas to foreign governments for their oil, said Pickens, citing government figures.

"It is outrageous that we are sending billions of dollars — \$432,000 per minute — overseas to foreign countries while domestic programs at home remain severely underfunded," said Pickens, who plans to highlight the monthly figures on his Web site.

Pickens met with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and several House and Senate members to promote his

plan. He urged them to include money in the economic stimulus plan they are crafting for converting 350,000 large commercial trucks such as 18-wheelers to natural gas.

"I think they are thinking about all of this very seriously," Pickens said.

Pickens last July unveiled a plan to cut U.S. dependency on foreign oil by increasing the use of wind power and natural gas. Pickens wants to erect wind turbines in the Midwest to generate electricity, replacing the 22 percent of U.S. power produced from natural gas. The natural gas then could be used for transportation. Kennedy backs Pickens' proposal.

Texas, California, Iowa, Minnesota and Washington are the top wind-energy producing states, according to the American Wind Energy Association. There are hundreds of proposals for wind-energy projects across the country, including plans for an offshore Cape Cod wind farm that has sparked a bitter fight in Massachusetts.

Boone last year delayed his own massive Texas wind-farm plans, blaming a lack of financing and declining petroleum prices. He's also faced opposition from West Texas landowners.

He has urged the government to begin building transmission lines for wind-generated power or provide the right of way on private land and extend tax credits so the private sector can build the lines. Pickens has also called for a 10-year extension of a tax credit for energy producers.

On the Net:
Pickens Plan:
<http://www.pickensplan.com/theplan/>

FATAL BLACK HAWK CRASH



Debris flies in all directions as an army helicopter crashes in a field College Station, Texas Monday afternoon. The Black Hawk helicopter crashed into a field on the campus of Texas A&M University during a field training exercise Monday, killing one person and injuring four others aboard. The copter was at A&M transporting Texas A&M Corp of Cadets members to a scenario exercise at Fort Swift along with several other helicopters. (photo by Dave McDermand, Bryan-College Station Eagle)

Teen in custody for alleged arson

LOCKNEY, Texas (AP) — Authorities say a teenage girl faces a felony arson charge for allegedly starting a fire that destroyed a West Texas school.

The teenager, a student at the school, surrendered to authorities late Monday, Floyd County Chief Deputy Daniel Spain said.

She remained in custody at the Garza County Juvenile Detention Center on Tuesday, he said.

No one was hurt in the blaze Sunday

night when the building was unoccupied. The fire also damaged part of the adjacent junior high school.

Spain said a second, younger teenager also surrendered Monday night. She faces an arson charge for allegedly setting fires in garbage cans near the school and was not involved in the school fire.

Lockney is a town of about 1,800, located 60 miles northeast of Lubbock.

DHS approves \$450M biothreat lab at Kansas State

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — The Department of Homeland Security has approved a site at Kansas State University for a \$450 million lab to study livestock diseases and some of the world's most dangerous biological threats.

The agency's final record of decision — a document obtained by The Associated Press — confirmed a decision announced in December to build the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility at the Manhattan, Kan., campus to replace an aging lab at Plum Island, N.Y.

DHS spokeswoman Amy Kudwa said the document hasn't been publicly released and declined to comment further about the decision. But the state's two senators issued statements confirming that DHS Undersecretary Jay Cohen had signed it.

Sites in Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina and Texas were also considered for the new lab, where animal diseases and other potential bioterrorism threats will be researched.

The federal agency said factors in its decision included the proximity of the site to Kansas State's research labs and its colleges of agriculture and

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Kansas will cement its reputation as the nation's leader in plant and animal health research and the biosciences," Roberts said. "We will reap the benefits of a cutting edge industry while protecting the nation's food supply and agricultural economy for years to come."

Critics of NBAF raised concerns about the safety of people living near the lab, including in on-campus housing. They also said thousands of head of livestock in the region would be vulnerable if pathogens escaped from the facility.

Officials in Texas and Mississippi have threatened litigation over the decision.

Last week, Texas Gov. Rick Perry called the selection process unfair because his state's legislators weren't in session in 2008 and unable to consider a financial package to augment the state's bid.

Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour said last month when the initial recommendation was made that the process was flawed and that his state should have been awarded the project.

Sebelius said Barbour has since backed off his objection, but she expects Texas to challenge the decision.

Kansas State President Jon Wefald said the state's proposed investment and its united effort to land the project were factors in the final decision and that everyone knew the rules and deadlines throughout the process.

"We were always hoping they would make their final decision sooner rather than later," Wefald said.

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- Pain control to allow the body to heal
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