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The PAMPA NEWS

Wednesday, August 4, 2010

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Pampa man facing federal counterfeiting charges

DAVID BOWSER

dbowser@thepampanews.com



Maul

A Pampa man is facing up to five years in prison and a hefty fine later this month after pleading guilty to counterfeiting charges in U.S. District Court in Lubbock.

Matthew Gilbert Maul, 39, of Pampa, pleaded guilty Thursday to federal counterfeiting charges. He is expected to be sentenced later this month.

Maul admitted in court that he and three others passed counterfeit money at Lubbock businesses. The counterfeit money was created on a printer at local hotels, according to court records.

He could be sentenced to up to five years in prison and fined up to \$250,000. He is also to pay a \$100 mandatory court assessment.

As part of the plea agreement, Maul agreed to testify about his part in a counterfeiting ring.

Maul was indicted, along with Jaylana Darlene Sain, Angel Mario Garza Jr. and Ashley Deshawn Griffith, by a federal grand jury May, 2010, in Lubbock for conspiracy to manufacture, possess

and pass counterfeit currency.

According to accusations made in the indictment, Maul and Griffith made and passed one counterfeit \$100 bill on July 6, 2009.

In total, the four were accused of manufacturing and passing four \$100 bills in early July, 2009.

Kathy Colvin with the U.S. Attorney's Office in Dallas said Maul and Griffith pleaded guilty. The trial for Sain and Garza is set for Aug. 16.

According to the indictment, Maul, Sain and Griffith printed counterfeit currency with an all-in-one printer in various hotel rooms that Sain had rented. On one occasion, Garza rented a hotel room using a false identity.

Federal investigators accused Garza, Griffith and Maul of passing the counterfeit money. Officers said the four would make a small purchase using a counterfeit \$100 bill and received genuine currency in change.

Authorities said in court documents that the three would return the change from **COUNTERFEIT** cont. on page 3

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photos courtesy of City of Pampa

The Super Playground at Central Park was left in extreme disrepair as a result of vandalism over the weekend. Parts of the structure were ripped off and left strewn about the area, including parts of a dice game (above) and several fence pickets and boards (below). Pampa Police and Crime Stoppers are currently actively seeking tips regarding the incident.

Vandalism leaves mess of Super Playground

ARNIE AURELLANO

editor@thepampanews.com

Pampa police are currently investigating an apparent substantial vandalism case at the Super Playground in Central Park, according to Pampa PD Crime Prevention Officer Stormy McCullar.

The police responded to a call about the playground being in rough shape at noon on Monday. Officers arrived at the playground to find several of its features damaged.

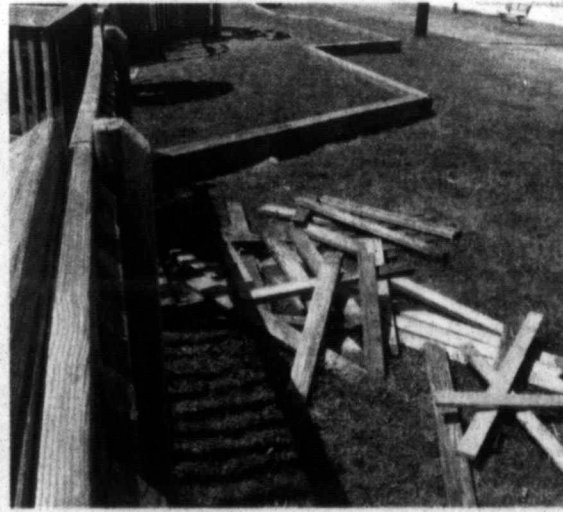
The police report lists pickets knocked out of playground fences, as well as damage to stairway boards, a post, the backhoe toy and one of the dice games.

There is currently no estimate on the total damage to the playground. McCullar said that the playground is currently closed until further notice as a safety precaution.

"It's just terrible," said McCullar. "This is a place that our kids go to play. For somebody to do that (to the Super Playground) is just ridiculous."

McCullar said that the police suspect the vandalism was a weekend job. "It had to have happened sometime after 5 (p.m.) on Friday and Monday morning," McCullar said. "Probably late at night."

The incident is the second such occurrence of vandalism around Central Park in the last few



weeks; many tee boxes at the park's disc golf course were also vandalized within the last few weeks, just before this past weekend's inaugural disc golf tournament.

It's also, according to McCullar, becoming an unfortunate recurrence at or around the playground. "We've had previous reports of criminal mischief there," she said. "We had one bad issue that happened a while back. There used to be a rubber

VANDALISM cont. on page 5

Man in jail after wreck, DWI arrest

DAVID BOWSER

dbowser@thepampanews.com

A Pampa man was in Gray County jail today after being arrested on charges of driving while intoxicated at the scene of an accident Tuesday.

Clyde David Whitten, 52, was driving a 1999 GMC Yukon sport utility vehicle Tuesday when he was in a near head on collision with a 2009 Ford Taurus driven by Ronald Eugene Riggs, 38, according to a police spokesman.

Riggs was taken to Pampa Regional Medical Center by Pampa EMS.

Officers said Whitten was east bound on Alcock about 10:45 a.m. Tuesday. Riggs was turning south from Alcock to Perry at the time of the collision.

Gray County Justice of the Peace Joe Martinez set bond for Whitten at \$1,500.

Four nabbed on drugs after traffic stop

DAVID BOWSER

dbowser@thepampanews.com

Four Oklahoma residents were in Gray County jail today after being arrested on drug charges near McLean.

Dondi Ray Bumpers, 53; Steven Jajuan Taylor, 23; Brandon Bashad Gunter, 26; and Kamau Jahi Williams, 32, were arrested on charges of possession of a controlled substance about 11:30 a.m. Tuesday after a Gray County deputy pulled them over for a traffic violation.

Deputy Lynn Hudson stopped the Chrysler Sebring the four were in for a traffic violation as they traveled down Interstate 40 near McLean late Tuesday morning.

Smelling what he thought was marijuana smoke in the car, Hudson asked for permission to search the vehicle and found what appeared to be over 400 grams of liquid codeine.

The four Tulsa residents were booked into Gray County jail on **DRUGS** cont. on page 3

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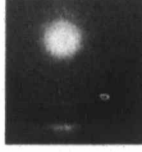
Pampa Chamber Salutes Pampa School Board, #1 in the District!



For the record

Obituaries

PAMPA FORECAST

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		
20%	20%	
High 93 Low 68	High 95 Low 70	High 99 Low 69

Tonight: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 69. Northeast wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Thursday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a high near 93. East wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Thursday Night: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 68. Southeast wind around 10 mph.

Friday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a high near 95. South wind around 10 mph.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 70. South southeast wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Saturday: Sunny and hot, with a high near 99. South southwest wind around 10 mph.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 69. South wind between 10 and 15 mph.

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Lots of new helmets just arrived!

Xcel elevates Energy Alert until 7 p.m.

WES REEVES
Special to The Pampa News

AMARILLO - In the wake of an unplanned generation outage, Xcel Energy has declared an Energy Alert in its Texas and New Mexico service territory and is urging customers to cut back on their use of electricity. The alert is in effect until 7 p.m.

Xcel Energy declares an Energy Alert only when a reduction in electricity use is urgently needed to maintain the electricity system and service to customers.

"We are making a public appeal to our customers to turn off lights and appliances unless it would harm their health," said Riley Hill, president and CEO of Southwestern Public Service Company, an Xcel Energy company. "For example, elderly people or people who have health concerns should NOT turn off their air conditioners."

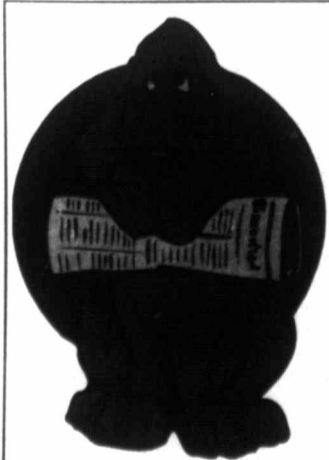
Suggestions on how reduce electric load include:

- Either turn off air conditioning or increase your thermostat setting to 85 degrees, slowly lowering the setting after 7 p.m. to a more comfortable setting. This does not apply to customers who depend on air conditioning for health reasons.
- Put off household chores that involve electrical appliances until after 7 p.m. (dishwashers, washing machines, clothes dryers, vacuum cleaners, etc.)
- Put off tasks at work, if possible, that would demand electricity (power tools, maintenance equipment, etc.).
- Turn off televisions and electronic equipment unless they are necessary to conduct business or to ensure your health and safety.
- Turn off unnecessary lighting, leaving on only enough to move about safely indoors.

Xcel Energy forecasts indicate that, unless customers cut back on use, electricity demand will exceed the amount of electricity the company will be able to supply from its own power plants and by purchases from other utilities. Failure to reduce electricity demand could result in controlled outages within the region.

Xcel Energy officials declared the Energy Alert only after all other efforts to reduce electricity demand or to increase supply were implemented. Those include:

- Bringing on line as many power plant generating units as possible and buying as much electricity as possible from other utilities.
- Reducing electricity use as much as possible at Xcel Energy power plants and office buildings.
- Interrupting power to industrial and agricultural customers who signed up for lower interruptible rates.
- Asking other commercial and industrial customers to curtail their energy use.



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The Pampa News

Tyler Brant Hucks, 20

Tyler Brant Hucks, 20, died August 2, 2010 in Pampa.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday, August 5, 2010, at Calvary Baptist Church, with Rev. Richard Bartel, pastor, and Rick Pearson, officiating.

Burial will be at Fairview Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whalley Funeral Directors.

Tyler was born August 3, 1989 in Hereford. He had

been a resident of Pampa most of his life, returning to Pampa in 2007 from Cumming, Ga. He graduated from North Forsyth High School in 2007 where he was a member of ROTC. He attended the Amarillo College Diesel Mechanic Program. Tyler was a salesman for Napa Auto Parts. He was a member of Calvary Baptist Church.

Survivors include his father and stepmother, Kevin and Jan Hucks of Pampa; mother and stepfather, Sheril and Tim Conner of Rio Rancho, N.M.; five sisters, Heather Hucks of Amarillo, Julie Towles of Wichita Falls, Misty Singleton of Little Elm, Jessica May of Abilene, and Kayla Preston of Pampa; two brothers, Hunter Hucks and Craig Conner, both Pampa; grandparents, Bay and Bobbie Baldrige of Dimmitt, Orvel and Loretta Brantley of Lockney, Bob and Doris Young of Pampa, and Layne Conner of Bryan; several aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews. Tyler was preceded in death by his grandfather, Johnny Hucks and his grandmother, Mae Dale Conner.

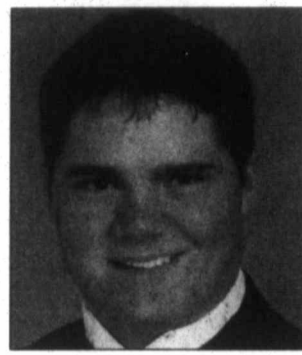
Memorials may be made to Calvary Baptist Church Youth Group, 900 E. 23rd, Pampa, TX 79065.

Sign the online register at www.carmichael-whalley.com.

James Holcomb, 86

James Holcomb, 86, died August 4, 2010 in Pampa.

Services are pending with Carmichael-Whalley Funeral Directors.



Hucks

Joe Nelson, 87

Joe Nelson, 87, died August 2, 2010.

He was born in Pampa on October 5, 1922 to Edwin and Ellen Nelson. Joe grew up on a Panhandle family farm. He graduated from Pampa High School and attended Texas Tech University. In World War II, he served in the U.S. Army Corps in a finance department at Lubbock Army Air Field as a Staff Sergeant.

After his years in the service, he received his Bachelor of Science from Oklahoma City University, and later his CPA. He was married to Hope Cade, his Texas Tech sweetheart for 65 years. It was in Oklahoma that Joe and Hope became parents of his three daughters, Jan, Jolynn and Lisa, and the family later settled in Dallas.

Joe was a CPA, auditor, systems manager and trust officer of various oil companies and banks in his professional career.

His life passions were world travel, entertaining friends, good food, gardening, Port Aransas Beach Vacations, camping and most importantly his family and grandchildren who affectionately called him "Papa Joe."

He is survived by his three daughters and their husbands; Jan and Bill Ragsdale of Pampa, Jolynn and Michael Bennett of Dallas, Lisa and Lawrence DeLong of Mabank; his grandchildren, Jereme Ragsdale and wife Melissa, Joe Ragsdale and wife Michelle, Sara Pearson and husband David, Rebecca Bennett, Kristin DeLong, Kelly Unthank and husband Matt, Joshua DeLong and Jason DeLong; his six great-granddaughters, Alex, Aubri, Emi, Joie, Kathering and Kylee; and with much gratitude his devoted caregiver, Lisa Marie Hembrick.

Of all of the things he loved, Joe loved a good joke; he loved to hear them, he loved to tell them, and he never forgot them.

Memorials can be made in lieu of flowers to his favorite charities, The Alzheimer's Association, 225 North Michigan Avenue, 17th Floor, Chicago, IL 60601, www.alz.org, or the PKU Foundation, 7033 Wabash Circle, Dallas TX 75214, www.pkufoundation.com.



Nelson

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Police Department

The Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents during the 24-hour period ending at 8 a.m. Tuesday.

Police said there were 12 traffic-related stops and three accidents, including one fatality.

Animal control reported 15 animal-related calls.

Pampa EMS reported five ambulance calls. The Pampa Police Department reported one medical call.

Monday, Aug. 2
The burglary of a motor home was reported in the 500 block of North Faulkner.

Officers performed a welfare check in the 1100 block of Crane.

An alarm was reported in the 1000 block of North Hobart.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 1000 block of South Christy.

Officers attempted to serve papers in the 1000

block of Varmon and in the 400 block of Hughes.

Officers had escort duty in the 100 block of 30th.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 1100 block of North Hobart.

Lost property was reported to police.

Forgery was reported in the 300 block of North Hobart.

Officers made a welfare check in the 500 block of North Magnolia.

Officers assisted another agency in the 1400 block of East Browning.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 1800 block of North Russell.

A burglary was reported in the 2200 block of North Wells.

City crews turned off the water in the 1900 block of West Alcock.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 1800 block of North Dwight.

Officers attempted to serve papers in the 1100 block of Varmon.

A fire alarm was reported in the 100 block of 30th.

A theft was reported in the 300 block of East Brown.

Fire investigators launched an investigation in the 1500 block of North Faulkner.

A suspicious person was reported in the 1100 block of West Alcock.

Tuesday, Aug. 3
An open door was reported in the 600 block of South Huff.

Officers assisted a motorist in the 500 block of South Sumner.

A suspicious person was reported in the 1000 block of West Alcock.

A prowler was reported in the 2100 block of North Nelson.

A suspicious person was reported in the 1600 block of East U.S. Highway 60.

A suspicious person was reported in the 1300 block of North Hobart and at Cook and Hobart.

A theft was reported in

the 1900 block of North Hobart.

A prowler was reported in the 300 block of North Gillespie.

Sheriff's Office

The Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests during the 24-hour period ending at 8 a.m. Tuesday.

Monday, Aug. 2
Victor Manuel Contreras Jr., 21, was arrested by deputies on charges of assault causing bodily injury involving a family member.

Tuesday, Aug. 3
Wesley Gene Franklin, 29, was arrested by police on 12 capias pro fine warrants charging him with issuance of a bad check.

Jesus Rodriguez, 30, was arrested by police on charges of theft under \$50.

Shawn Michael Hawthorne, 18, was arrested by police on charges of theft under \$50.

A theft was reported in

the 1900 block of North Hobart.

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Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, Aug. 4, the 216th day of 2010. There are 149 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Aug. 4, 1944, Anne Frank, 15, was arrested along with her sister, parents and four others by German security after hiding for two years inside a building in Amsterdam.

On this date:

In 1790, the Coast Guard had its beginnings as the Revenue Cutter Service.

In 1830, plans for the city of Chicago were laid out.

In 1892, Andrew and Abby Borden were axed to death in their home in Fall River, Mass. Lizzie Borden, Andrew's daughter from a previous marriage, was accused of the killings, but acquitted at trial.

In 1916, the United States reached agreement with Denmark to purchase the Danish Virgin Islands for \$25 million.

In 1964, the bodies of missing civil rights workers Michael Schwerner, Andrew Goodman and James Chaney were found buried in an earthen dam in Mississippi.

In 1977, President Jimmy Carter signed a measure establishing the Department of Energy.

In 1987, the Federal Communications Commission voted to abolish the Fairness Doctrine, which required radio and television stations to present balanced coverage of controversial issues.

Ten years ago: Fresh from the Republican national convention in Philadelphia, GOP presidential nominee George W. Bush and running mate Dick Cheney began an air and rail tour of four swing states: Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan and Illinois.

Five years ago: Al-Qaida's No. 2, Ayman al-Zawahri, threatened more destruction in London in a videotape aired on Al-Jazeera. He also threatened the United States with tens of thousands of military dead if it did not withdraw from Iraq; President George W. Bush responded by saying, "We will stay the course, we will complete the job."

One year ago: North Korean leader Kim Jong Il pardoned American journalists Laura Ling and Euna Lee for entering the country illegally and ordered their release during a surprise visit by former U.S. President Bill Clinton.

Today's Birthdays: Actor-comedian Richard Belzer is 66. Football Hall-of-Famer John Riggins is 61. Former Attorney General Alberto Gonzales is 55. Actor-screenwriter Billy Bob Thornton is 55. Track star Mary Decker Slaney is 52. Actress Lauren Tom is 51. President Barack Obama is 49. MLB pitcher Roger Clemens is 48. Author Dennis Lehane is 45. Rock musician Rob Cieka (Boo Radleys) is 42. Actor Daniel Dae Kim is 42. Actor Michael DeLuise is 41. Actor Ron Lester is 40. Race car driver Jeff Gordon is 39. Rapper-actress Yo-Yo is 39. Rhythm-and-blues singer-actor Marques Houston is 29. Actors Cole and Dylan Sprouse are 18.

Thought for Today:

"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world." — Anne Frank (1929-1945).

THE MONEY FROM THE BUSH TAX CUTS FOR THE FILTHY, STINKIN' RICH CAN BE PUT TO BETTER USE ELSEWHERE....



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Democrats attack GOP on Tea Party link

WASHINGTON — With their poll numbers plunging in a jobless recovery, skyrocketing budget deficits, an unpopular health care plan, and their majority teetering on the edge of defeat, Democrats have switched to a novel election strategy: attack the Republicans.

In a campaign strategy that comes directly from the White House high command, Democrats are ditching President Obama's 2008 campaign promise of political reconciliation and attempting to smear the GOP by tying it to the Tea Party movement.

The decision, announced Wednesday by Democratic National Committee Chairman Tim Kaine, has failure and desperation written all over it.

The tea party movement, which is not a party and has no central organization, was born in the fiery debate over the health care bill in the summer of 2009 as thousands of dissident voters showed up at town hall meetings to express their opposition. It grew over time as Obama's budget deficits grew to \$1.4 trillion last year, then to \$1.5 trillion this year. Their common sense response: Enough is enough!

Their chief complaints: The government borrows and spends too much and has gotten too big. The national debt and tax rates have gotten out of control and threaten the country's solvency. Needless agencies and programs should be cut back and some even eliminated. And the Democrats think these people are a threat to the country?

What the White House can't fathom is that many Americans agree with the tea party's message. Listen to what the editors at National Journal's Hotline say about them:

"Many independent voters sympathize with the tea party's broad message of cutting government spending, lower taxes and disaffection with all things Washington. Polls show about one-fourth of voters sympathize with the movement, and nearly all of them say they're planning to vote this fall. The tea party still has a much



DONALD LAMBRO

higher net favorable rating than both Democrats and GOPers, 33/31 in the latest Quinnipiac poll."

But Obama's top political strategists have poll tested a variety of their own issues and found them wanting.

They can't run on the Republicans blocking their agenda. It was passed by Democrats on party-line votes, and voters are strongly opposed to most of it — from health care, which passed, to cap-and-trade energy taxes, which didn't because the Democrats could not agree on it in the Senate. And a growing number of Democrats in the House now rue the day they supported it.

They can't run on Obama's popularity, because he is unpopular in a number of midterm election battleground states. A recent poll for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch found that Missouri voters disliked the job he was doing by 57 percent to 34 percent. A whopping 63 percent of independent voters disapproved of his performance. Democrats in major battleground races have avoided appearing with him in their campaigns. Ohio Lt. Gov. Lee Fisher, the party's Senate nominee, was nowhere to be seen when Obama made two trips to the state earlier this year, though he appeared briefly with him at a party event last month.

In Texas, Democratic gubernatorial nominee Bill White flatly says he will not appear with the president when he comes to the state next week because it might hurt his candidacy.

They can't run on the success of his economic policies, because his \$800 billion spending stimulus has been a conspicuous failure at worst and mediocre at best. Obama insists the economy is moving "in the right direction" but a majority of voters disagree; after all, the national unem-

ployment rate is nearly 10 percent and in places like Nevada and elsewhere it's hit 14 percent since the stimulus took effect.

With 15 million Americans unemployed and millions more forced to work part-time, the Democrats cannot talk about the economy with any credibility. So that issue is off the table for them — but not for the Republicans, who will pound the Democrats with it from now until Nov. 2.

So with nothing else to run on, Democratic party leaders are going on the attack, trying to tie Republicans to the tea party activists whom they say are "out of the political mainstream" and made up of radical elements. But if Democrats think that opposing staggering deficits, tax increases in a recession and health-care mandates that will drive up costs is radical, then which party is really out of the mainstream now?

In fact, Obama and his strategists are now being criticized by some in their own party for abandoning his campaign pledge to tone down divisive rhetoric and seek political reconciliation.

"Rather than being a unifier, Mr. Obama has divided America on the basis of race, class and partisanship," say two pollsters who served former presidents Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton.

"Obama has also cynically divided the country on class lines. He has taken to playing the populist card time and time again," Patrick H. Caddell and Douglas E. Schoen wrote in a blistering op-ed column in Wednesday's Wall Street Journal.

Such criticism comes in the wake of growing complaints by Democrats in Congress that after making them take the political heat back home for supporting Obama's unpopular agenda, the White House is now letting them hang out to dry.

Donald Lambro is chief political correspondent for The Washington Times. His twice-weekly column, which he has written since 1980, appears in newspapers nationwide.

Letter to the editor

To the Editor:

On behalf of the Cal Ripken 10-year-old Baseball South Texas State Champions and the Southwest Regional Champions, Texas Tri-County, we thank you all for the hospitality our team and family members received during our visit to Pampa for the Southwest Regional Tournament.

During our visit, Pampa treated us with friendliness, kindness, helpfulness and not only with interest in our team but with sincere support. We thank you for the sup-

port which helped us play to our full potential to win the tournament. We will always remember Pampa as a place and people who helped us achieve our goal of participating in the Cal Ripken 10-year-old World Series un Ocala, Fla.

Also, a special thank you to the Hampton Inn in Pampa for making our stay extremely comfortable.

Thank you all!

James Aymond
Texas Tri-County Manager, team and families

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- 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.
- The views and opinions expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of The Pampa News or its staff.

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NWS meteorologist Drillette moves up to Brownsville office

SPECIAL TO THE PAMPA NEWS

Longtime Amarillo warning coordination meteorologist Steve Drillette has been appointed meteorologist-in-charge of the National Weather Service forecast office in Brownsville, Texas. Drillette replaces Nezette Rydell, who transferred to the forecast office in Denver.

"A meteorologist-in-charge is the front line officer carrying out the National Weather Service's highest calling of protecting lives while helping to mitigate the economic losses during hazardous events," said Bill Proenza, southern regional director of the U.S. National Weather Service. "Steve Drillette, with his experience, leadership and communication skills, will continue to assure the best weather services for the residents of south Texas."

In his new position, Drillette will be responsible for ensuring the residents, and the marine community, receive timely and accurate weather warnings, forecasts and climate information. His responsibilities also

include maintaining close working relationships with partners in the emergency management community and the media, and providing severe weather awareness, preparedness and safety education to the public.

Drillette launched his National Weather Service career as a meteorologist intern at the National Weather Service forecast Office in Amarillo, Texas in 1993. He also served as a service hydrologist in Lubbock (1995-1998) and as a senior forecaster (1998-1999) in the Midland, Texas office. He then returned to Amarillo where he was promoted to the position of warning coordination meteorologist. Prior to joining the National Weather Service, Drillette also worked as a high school science and mathematics teacher and head basketball coach, and broadcast meteorologist.

In addition to his duties with the National Weather Service, Steve has served as a board member for the past 7 years and is the current president of the Amarillo Highland Park School District. He has also served as a board member of Leadership Amarillo and Canyon

and the local chapter of the American Red Cross.

Drillette is a member of the American Meteorological Society, the National Weather Association, the Association of Contingency Planners, and the Texas Floodplain Management Association. He earned a bachelor's degree in meteorology from Texas A & M University in 1983.

"It's been an honor to serve the residents of the Texas and Oklahoma Panhandles for the past 11 years," said Drillette. "I will miss the friendly Panhandle people and the many friendships developed over the past decade."

The National Weather Service provides a network of 122 Weather Forecast Offices serving the nation with vital weather warnings, forecasts and climate services in air, land and sea.

NOAA understands and predicts changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and conserves and manages our coastal and marine resources. Visit <http://www.noaa.gov>.

28,000 killed in Mexico violence since '06

MEXICO CITY (AP) — President Felipe Calderon said he would consider a debate on legalizing drugs Tuesday as his government announced that more than 28,000 people have been killed in drug violence since he launched a crackdown against cartels in 2006.

Intelligence agency director Guillermo Valdes also said authorities have confiscated about 84,000 weapons and made total cash seizures of \$411 million in U.S. currency and \$26 million worth in pesos (330 million pesos).

Valdes released the statistics during a meeting with Calderon and representatives of business and civic groups, where attendees exploring ways to improve Mexico's anti-drug strategy called on the government to open a debate on legalization.

Calderon said he has taken note of the idea of legally regulating drugs in the past.

"It's a fundamental debate in which I think, first of all, you must allow a democratic plurality (of



Calderon

Ernesto Zedillo of Mexico and Fernando Cardoso of Brazil — urged Latin American countries last year to consider legalizing marijuana to undermine a major source of income for cartels. And Mexico's congress also has debated the issue.

But Calderon has so far said he is opposed to the idea.

"I'm not talking just about marijuana," analyst and writer Hector Aguilar Camin said in proposing the debate Tuesday, "rather all drugs in general."

The most recent official toll of the drug war dead came in mid-

June, when the attorney general said 24,800 had died. Valdes did not specify a time frame for the new statistics.

The government does not regularly break down murder statistics, but leading newspapers who kept their own counts say last month was the deadliest yet under Calderon: According to national daily Milenio, 1,234 were killed in July.

The Mexican government says most victims were involved in the drug trade.

Some attendees criticized the government for lacking consistent statistics on the drug war and an effective way to communicate its successes. They also said the government needs to do more to combat the financial arm of organized crime.

"There's no systematic policy for investigating or seizing the assets of organized crime," said Jose Luis Pineyro of Mexico's Autonomous Metropolitan University, "nor a system of locating the properties of organized crime."

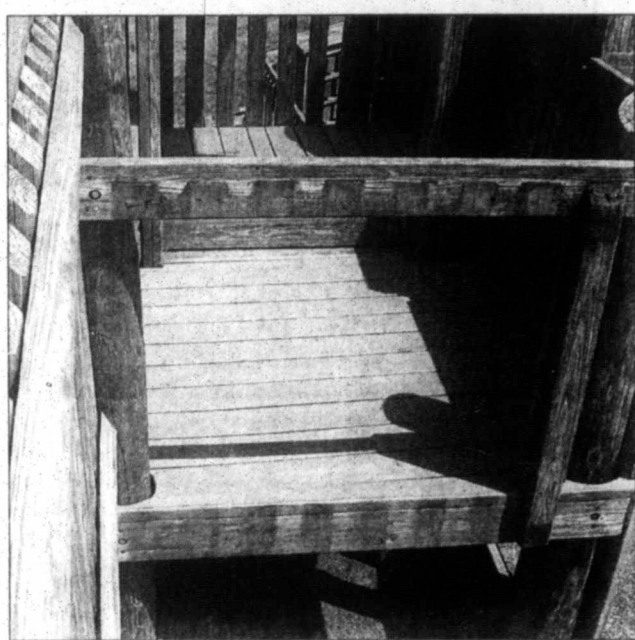


photo courtesy of City of Pampa

Large sections of fencing were torn off the Super Playground over the weekend.

Vandalism

cont. from page 1

(bridge) there, and (vandals) just tore it up."

McCullar added that Crime Stoppers is actively seeking any tips on the case from local residents who may have witnessed the incident.

"I report it over and over and over again," she said. "We can't do it without the community's help."

"This is a place for our kids to have fun. I can't even think of who would want to do something like this to a place like that. Any tips from anyone out there would be really helpful."

Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips



DEAR ABBY: I'm 25 and have been married to "Bob" for five years. The problem is, I'm in love with his 53-year-old father. I have always been attracted to "Charlie," but my feelings have escalated since Bob's mother died last year.

After the funeral, Charlie was lonely and started coming to our house. Most of the time Bob was at work, so Charlie and I became very close. At one family get-together, Charlie kissed me passionately in the kitchen when no one was around.

I don't know what to do. I think I am seriously in love with Charlie, but my husband is a wonderful man and I would never want to hurt him. If I tell Bob the truth, not only will it destroy our marriage, but forever ruin Bob's relationship with his father.

Should I ignore my feelings for Charlie and pretend it never happened? Or should I tell Bob what happened, hoping he'll understand? — IN LOVE WITH THE OLDER VERSION

DEAR IN LOVE: Charlie may have been lonely and grieving when he started coming over, but when you both recognized that you were becoming attracted to each other, a stop should have been put to

it. That he would actually hit on you "when no one was looking" is disgraceful. (Was he sober?)

If you tell your husband, he will indeed "understand," and I don't recommend it. You need professional counseling, and Charlie needs to be told that poaching on the family preserve is not allowed, so he should spend his lonely hours looking for company that's available. What you have described isn't love; it's a scandal.

DEAR ABBY: Two years ago I placed my second child for adoption. I was a single mom with a 3-year-old boy to raise and the father was in the military for an extended mission. I thought long and hard before I did it and decided that the gift I could give to another couple was better than the life I could offer a child as a single parent.

I am still in contact with the father. We speak often, comfort each other and just talk. Some people — mainly men I have dated — find this relationship disturbing. It has caused two relationships to end.

Abby, am I wrong to continue a friendship with the father of a child I gave up for adoption? I know that at some point the past needs to be the

past, and I'll have to deal with it for the rest of my life. Is it wrong to want to have that other person there to connect with me and understand firsthand what a hard life decision I went through? — GIVEN UP SO MUCH ALREADY IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR GIVEN UP SO MUCH: No, but if you are trying to cultivate and maintain a relationship with someone else, you need to recognize that clinging to the father of that child and talking to him "often" was somewhere between threatening and a turn-off for the men you were involved with. THEY should have been the ones providing understanding and comfort — not him.

DEAR ABBY: I have been living with my boyfriend for three years. We have often talked about a future together, complete with a house, kids, etc. I am the breadwinner while he is working hard to achieve success as an artist. The role reversal suits us just fine except for one thing. I would like to become engaged, but I feel I can't expect him to propose when I know he has very little money. Abby, should I propose to him? — BREADWINNER IN NEW YORK, N.Y.

DEAR BREADWINNER: I don't see why

not. It happens every day!

Pet of the Week

Sponsored by The Pampa News

"Jake"
Male Schnauzer

"Garfield"
Cat

Every animal deserves a good home. If you are looking for a forever friend, visit us today!

News you can sink your teeth into!

Call 669-2525 to subscribe!

The Pampa News

For more information about these pets or any other questions, please contact the local animal shelter at 806-669-5775 or visit it at the Hobart Street Park. All photos of animals can be viewed 24 hours a day online at www.cityof-pampa.org. The animals can be seen through the window of the shelter anytime.

The shelter is open to the public
Monday - Saturday from 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.



THE PAMPA NEWS

CLASSIFIEDS

To place an ad, call Beverly Taylor at 806-669-2525 or email classified@thepampanews.com

5 Special Notices

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

14d Carpentry

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

CUSTOM Building & Remodeling, New Homes & Additions, Shawn Deaver Const., 806-662-2977.

OVERHEAD DOOR REPAIR Kidwell Construction. Call 669-6347.

14e Carpet Serv.

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

14g Elec. Contr.

RUSSELLCROW Electric for your electric needs! Comm., Resi. 665-0878, 440-1171.

14h Gen. Serv.

CERAMIC tile work. Remodeling floor, shower, kitchen. Texture, painting, dry wall. Free esti. Call 665-3453 Barraza.

HOUSE Cracking? In bricks or walls? Childers Brothers, Inc. 800-299-9563, 806-352-9563

COX Fence Company. Repair old fence or build new. Free estimates. Call 669-7769.

SOLIS FENCING. New Fence / Fence Repairs. Free estimates. 806-486-1368, 662-2473

14h Gen. Serv.

J&S Handyman, roofing, carpentry, haul-off, mowing, tree trimming, painting, texture. 806-664-4667, 662-1219

14r Plowing/Yard

RICO'S Lawn Care & Handyman Service. Tree & shrub trimming. Clean up & haul offs, lawn mowing 662-4971

14s Plumbing

JACK'S Plumbing 715 W. Foster 665-7115

14w Air Cond/Heat

BROWNING Heating & Air Cond., 665-1212. Free esti. on new equip. We service all brands!

19 Situations

DEPENDABLE baby sitting in my home, will show references, Mon-Fri. 7am-6pm, Call 662-1460.

WILL Clean Houses. Will provide References Free Estimates Call 662-4540.

21 Help Wanted

NOTICE Readers are urged to fully investigate advertisements which require payment in advance for information, services or goods.

NOW taking applications for host, wait staff & cooks. No phone calls. Please apply in person between 2 pm & 5 pm., at Dixie Cafe.

D&R Transport, Canadian, TX now hiring CDL Drivers. Offering competitive wages. 806-323-6161.

21 Help Wanted

PHARMACY Tech or person willing to train. Must be 18 with high school diploma or GED. Apply in person, Keyes Pharmacy.

DRIVERS WANTED!

Immediate openings for Petroleum Bulk Drivers in Pampa, Tx. Class A CDL w/ Hazmat & Tanker Endorsement a must. 800-443-8580 ext. 137

DRIVER Needed! Class A CDL, must pass physical and drug test, 1 yr. verifiable experience. Competitive wages. Call 806-665-2451

NEED FT or PT Licensed Occupational Therapist & Speech Therapist.

Apply Shepard's Crook, 916 N. Crest Rd. Ste. 101, Pampa.

PHARMACY Tech. Be reliable and have good people skills. Good Keyboarding a MUST. FT flexible hrs. Apply at HEARD-JONES, downtown Pampa.

TRUCK Driver needed. Class A CDL and Drug testing required. Call 806-274-0368.

CATTLEMAN'S Feedlot II needs Office Clerk. F-T w/ ins. Pick up appli. 3900 CR 23, Hedley, Tx. Mail or fax resume Fax 806-856-5374, phone 856-5984.

ST. Ann's Nursing Home, Panhandle is currently seeking a part-time LVN to assist our MDS Coordinator. Assessment skills and some computer knowledge are req. Come in for an appli., or for more info. 537-3194.

GRAY County Sheriff's Office

is currently accepting applications for Part-Time Cook. Pick up and return application to the Sheriff's office. No Phone Calls

LOOKING for person w/ exp. in bookkeeping & clerical. Proficient in computers. QuickBooks & Excel. Mail resume to Po Box 461, Pampa, TX 79066-0461

LEGAL SECRETARY

Needed for Pampa Attorney Exp. & References Required Fax resume to 806-688-1150 or e-mail to cindy@sturgeonlawfirm.com

General Staff Position

We are currently accepting applications for full and part time positions. Resumes are being accepted by fax: 806-665-3511 or in person. Vision Source Drs. Simmons & Simmons, 1324 N. Banks, Pampa

CLASSIFIED LINE AD SPECIALS

For June, July & Aug. (does not include Last Minute Ads on pg. 2)

5 lines 7 days \$20.50

7 lines 7 days \$22.50

Call for Deadlines 669-2525 Mon.-Fri. 8-4pm

69a Garage Sales

BACK Yard: 920 Terry Rd., Fri. & Sat. 8-? Lots household, lrg. women's, girls 8-12 clothes.

A-Z Estate & Yard Sale, 1142 S. Christy. Over 100 yrs Collection. Some baby items. Lets Make a Deal! Thurs.-Sat. 9-???

MULTI Family Sale Inside M.K. Brown Auditorium Sat. 8-4

80 Pets & Suppl.

TO give away 2 female adult cats, 1 female kitten (black), outside/inside. Call 665-4477.

ADORABLE long hair kittens, free to loving indoor homes. 665-4901 or 662-7361

FOR SALE 7wk old Registered Male (black & tan) Dachshund \$300. 898-0563

FREE to good home 2 Pit Bulls, 1 fe. and 1 male. Spayed & neutered. 806-440-2476

95 Furn. Apts.

SCHNEIDER Apartments. Call for special rates. Short term lease. Business people welcome. 665-0415

98 Unfurn. Houses

PICK up rental list, in the Black Box, at 125 S. Houston, Pampa.

2bd., 1 bath, washer/dryer hookups. \$450 month plus \$450 dep., 1213 Garland. Call 665-5473.

3BD., 1 bath, central heat/air, fireplace. \$685 month plus deposit. 701 E. 15th realtorjanphillips@yahoo.com or call 972-896-6180

3/2 cen h/a, built-in appliances, dishwasher, fenced. \$750 mo. + dep. 1425 N. Russell realtorjanphillips@yahoo.com or call 972-896-6180

98 Unfurn. Houses

FOR Sale By Owner, 1820 N. Banks, 3 bdr., 2 ba., 1 car garage + carport, fenced yard. \$73,000. 665-3021.

FOR Sale Only, 3 Bedroom Brick, 1 3/4 Bath, Fireplace, Inground Pool, Covered Patio. 2 Car Garage. 440-1822.

FSBO 2213 N. Zimmers. 3 bdr., 1 ba., 1 car gar. Completely updated. \$84,000. Move-In Ready! 806-440-3601

TRUSTAR Real Estate for all your complete real estate needs. Show, list, property mgmt. 665-4595.

115 Trailer Parks

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

120 Autos

FOR Sale 1984 Buick LeSabre, 4 door Sedan \$1,000 Or Best Offer. Call 665-1084, 662-0302

21 Help Wanted

JULIE'S Hallmark Needs Sale's Associate. 10-20 hours. Apply in person, 125 W. Kingsmill, Pampa.

Chemical Delivery Driver

Oilfield exp. helpful. Mandatory drug test and background check. CDL Hazmat and air brake endorsement will be req. during employment. Good benefits. 401k after 1st yr of employment. Pampa, Perryton, Canadian area. 1-806-228-5463 or 228-3462 for application

Maintenance

Skilled nursing facility seeks "hands-on" maintenance supervisor for upkeep & repair anywhere in the facility. Requires good working knowledge of light electrical repair, plumbing, general carpentry (including drywall / sheetrock repair, tile replacement / repair), painting, etc. Must be available for on-call when needed. Salary based on abilities, good benefits. EOE/MFHV Please apply in person, Mon-Fri 9am to 4pm. BORGER HEALTH CARE CENTER, 1316 S. Florida, Borger.

Legal Secretary

Needed for Pampa Attorney Exp. & References Required Fax resume to 806-688-1150 or e-mail to cindy@sturgeonlawfirm.com

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DAILY HOROSCOPE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, Aug. 5, 2010:

This year, you greet life with a new openness. Network, meet new people and don't hesitate to explore different ideas. You might not agree, but you understand finally where others are coming from. If you are single, you will meet many people, as outgoing as you are. Many people could be yours. Choose with care. If you are attached, you discover how much fun the two of you can have if you wave goodbye to being judgmental. GEMINI, though often scattered, helps you focus.

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)

***** Keep conversations moving, for your sake. You don't want an active discussion or positive debate to tumble into quiescence. Others also provoke an enormous amount of resourcefulness. Stay on top of your game. Tonight: Make plans for the weekend.

TAURUS (April 20-May 21)

*** Curb a need to have certain events turn out as you might like. You can only control yourself and your responses. You have many reasons to let go and flow. Others might have a strong reaction to the new you, but there will be changes. Tonight: Indulge; buy that special item.

GEMINI (May 22-June 20)

***** You might not be as clear as you think you are being or would like to be. Your ability to communicate is inordinately strong. Count on your ability to get through to another party. Be more upbeat and forthright. Tonight: Play the

night away.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

***** Take your time handling a personal matter. You could be most uncomfortable with information that comes forward. Sit back and look for more. It might take a few days, but once you hear more facts, understanding grows. Tonight: Lie back.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

***** Look at what you want from various situations, and then you will know what to do. Others might be acting contrary at times. Logic will prevail. Of course, with the additional plus of your personality, who can say "no"? Tonight: How can anyone say "no" to you?

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

***** Others seek you out for advice. They think you have the answers. Though there could be a sharp quality, you are coming from a centered place. Let your feelings about a key matter come out. Others need to know where you are coming from. Tonight: A must appearance.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

***** Take an overview, and you will feel as if no one can stop you. You have an unusually dynamic perspective, which frequently many people seek to tap into. Curb a need to make mountains out of molehills. Tonight: Follow the music.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

***** A meeting could only become confusing if it isn't one-on-one. Avoid frustration and remain as direct as possible. Listen to news with a grain of salt. You simply might need to step up to the plate. Tonight: Chat over dinner.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

***** You might want to defer to others.

Confusion marks a conversation; you care what this person thinks. You could try another way of having this conversation or choose other words. Tonight: Say "yes" to an invitation.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

***** You discover what is really going on between you and another person. You can find the answer by detaching. You could be delighted by what you discover. Kick back and open up. Tonight: Relax to music.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

***** If a partner or close associate seems as if he or she is in a sour mood, distance yourself. You want to be treated in a certain way and need to let your friends know that. You might be delighted by how quickly the situation could change. Tonight: Fun and games.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

***** At times it might be best to close down and rethink a situation. Sometimes you feel you are hitting a brick wall. The smart thing is not to keep running in the same direction. Solutions and options will appear. Tonight: Happily heading home.

BORN TODAY

Astronaut Neil Armstrong (1930), guitarist Pat Smeare (1959), basketball player Patrick Ewing (1962) ***

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at www.jacquelinebigar.com.

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We want your photos!

If you travel with Pampa, Lefors, Miami, McLean, Wheeler or White Deer events, The Pampa News could use your photos!

The Pampa News does not guarantee publication.

Send your unedited photos to Andrew Glover at aglover@thepampanews.com the night of the game or the next morning. Please include player identification.

Sports

Harvesters' Collins competes in Int'l Sports Festival

ANDREW GLOVER
aglover@thepampanews.com

Basketball is something that Pampa High School junior Latigo Collins loves. In fact, he's played basketball year round since he was six years old.

July 19-23 Collins participated in the USA Junior Nationals International Sports Festival in Columbus, Ohio. Collins said that week was intense as he played three to four basketball games every day.

"We played in pool play and then played in a tournament," Collins said. "My team lost in the second round of the tournament."

Each team at the festival was coached by a college coach. Collins team was coached by Eddie Tite, who coaches at Conners State in Oklahoma.

Playing under a college coach was dif-

ferent for Collins. "He was hard," Collins said. "It was a lot of fun."

The festival had some of the best high school basketball players in the country. Collins was chosen based on his play in the USA Junior Nationals State Competition in Norman Okla., last May.

The Pampa junior is waiting to hear if he made the All-America team.

Last year, Collins was one of the leading scorers in his first varsity season on the basketball team. Collins is also a starter on the football team as a defensive back.

staff photo by Andrew Glover
Latigo Collins attempts a layup January 8 against Caprock at McNeely Field House. Collins played at the International Sports Festival July 19-25 in Columbus, Ohio. Collins was one of the leading scorers for the Harvesters last season.



Favre and other athletes should be more considerate of teams

Tuesday, legendary quarterback Brett Favre again said he is going to retire. Now whether he sticks to that decision, we will find out if Super Bowl XLV is played in Dallas and Favre hasn't suited up for any of the franchises.

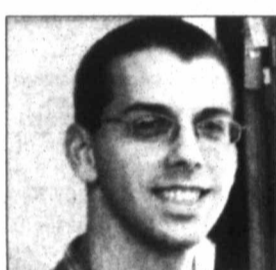
Now, this is a game that Favre has played since the end of the 2007-2008 season. I don't have a problem with him deciding to play or retire, but what I do have a problem with is the timing of his decisions, because they haven't been considerate of his teams.

Let's go back in time, when Favre first decided to retire in March 2008. There wasn't anything wrong with that decision, as Favre had a great career, owning all the passing records and winning Super Bowl XXXI. The problem was, a few months later, Favre decided that he made the wrong decision and wanted to come back. However, when that decision was made, the Packers have already gone forward with Aaron Rodgers, who backed up Favre for three seasons, as their quarterback. This led to the

ugly divorce between the Packers and Favre.

Of course, Favre felt like he was the victim. This is something I found pretty childish. Favre had from the day he decided to retire until to July to decide and come back and the Packers would have welcomed him back. The future Hall of Famer did not take advantage of those opportunities. Green Bay had to make a decision, which, short term, didn't work out great but could have long term benefits.

After spending 2008 with the New York Jets, Favre retired again. There was nothing wrong with that decision as he made his decision early enough. In the April 2009 draft, the Jets drafted Mark Sanchez and moved forward. However, Favre decided that he still wasn't done playing and returned to the NFL with the Vikings. Despite what Favre said, this move was clearly to get revenge against the Packers for what happened a year before, but that's another column in itself. Again the problem I have with this decision



ANDREW GLOVER

is Favre's timing. Favre decided to come back after the Vikings broke training camp. Just like the first retirement, Favre had plenty of time to make a decision and could have made that decision to play in time for training camp. Now as we watched last season, Favre did just fine for not coming to training camp, but should he have different rules than everyone else? His other teammates all reported to training camp, including running back Adrian Peterson who is working on being legendary. Being a Houston Texan fan, I felt bad for ex-Texan Sage Rosenfels last year as he had a decent chance to be the starting quarterback before Favre returned.

Other quarterbacks that ended up in the Hall of Fame that played with Favre had better timing with their decisions. Denver Broncos quarterback John Elway retired in May, plenty of time before training camp. Granted the Broncos knew he was probably retiring before the 1998-1999 season, which is why they drafted Brian Griese in the 1998 draft. Dallas Cowboys quarterback Troy Aikman retired in April 2001 and 49ers quarterback Steve Young retired well before the 2000 and 2001 season. Those retirements were due to injury, but both players made their intentions known well before the 2000-2001 season.

To give Favre a break, he isn't the only one that couldn't decide whether to stop playing or not. Michael Jordan retired three times. In 1993, 1999 and 2003. His retirements in 1993 and 1999 happened a month before the season started. Jordan, though, had some different circumstances around those decisions. He was coming off his father's murder in 1993

and in 1999 the NBA was in a lockout. The Wizards definitely didn't expect Jordan to stick around for a long time after he came back in 2001.

Probably the closest case to Favre is Roger Clemens. In 2003, Clemens said he was going to retire at season's end, however he signed with the Houston Astros in 2004, which was something I was excited about. That excitement would fade quickly. After the 2005 season, Clemens spent seven months trying to decide whether to come back or retire. About halfway through the 2006 season Clemens decided to return. Granted his return helped the Astros to nearly grab a third consecutive berth in the playoffs. If Clemens would have come back in March and played the first three months of the season, Houston might have easily clinched a playoff berth. The Rocket played the same game again after the 2007 season, but signed with the Yankees a couple months into the season. At first, as an Astro fan I was upset by this. After some time,

I was actually glad he left because the Astros didn't have to deal with that headache again.

To bring this locally, the star athletes on Pampa's football and volleyball teams and the star Lefors athletes all had to report to two-a-days Monday, just like the incoming freshmen and everyone else on their team. None of those players are given exceptions. So why should future Hall of Fame athletes be given exceptions?

Now back to Favre. So if this time he is truly retiring, he has put the Vikings in a tight spot. Minnesota didn't draft a quarterback and most of the top free agent quarterbacks have already been signed. Now, maybe the Vikings should have prepared a little more for Favre not coming back. Yet again, Favre has had ample time to decide whether he wants to come back for a 20th season. All and in all, professional athletes need to be more considerate to their teams that have given them the opportunity to play professionally.

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